*JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS*

THIRD SERIES

VOL. 45. No. 9 — 7 MARCH 1938

CONTENTS FOR 7 MARCH 1938


| | Page |
|---|---|
| LAISSER-FAIRE | *Frontispiece* |
| JOURNAL | 419 |
| THE ARCHITECTURAL WORK OF THE MINERS' WELFARE COMMITTEE. J. H. Forshaw [*F.*] | 421 |
| VOTE OF THANKS AND DISCUSSION | 428 |
| EXTRACTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT THE WEST YORKSHIRE SOCIETY'S DINNER | 439 |
| RESEARCH LABORATORIES, BLACKLEY, MANCHESTER. Architect: Serge Chermayeff [*F.*] | 440 |
| TRUNK ROADS: Report of Informal General Meeting | 447 |
| BOOK REVIEWS: | |
| THE SPIRIT OF MODERN BUILDING. Hugh Casson [*A.*] | 449 |
| ROLLING ON | 450 |
| THE RAILWAY AGE. S. E. Dykes Bower [*A.*] | 450 |
| VICTORIAN LONDON. J. H. L. | 451 |
| EVERY DAY IN EVERY WAY GETS BETTER AND BETTER | 452 |
| MEXICAN AND POLISH ARCHITECTURE. Michael Dugdale [*A.*] | 452 |
| PLANNING LAW DESCRIBED | 453 |
| SCIENCE ABSTRACTS | 453 |
| BITUMINOUS ROOFING FELTS. S. P. T. | 453 |
| PRICE BOOKS | 453 |
| ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY—VII | 454 |
| CORRESPONDENCE: | |
| HIGHFALUTIN. L. Sylvester Sullivan [*F.*] | 456 |
| MUSEUM PLANS. A. Harry Heron [*Ret. A.*] | 456 |
| NOTES | 457 |
| OBITUARIES: | |
| W. D. Caröe, F.S.A. [*F.*] | 459 |
| EUSTACE COHEN [*F.*] | 459 |
| ALLIED SOCIETIES' ACTIVITIES | 459 |
| SCHOOL NOTES | 460 |
| NOTICES | 460 |
| COMPETITIONS | 462 |
| MEMBERS' COLUMN | 463 |
| MINUTES—VI | 463 |
| ARCHITECTS' AND SURVEYORS' APPROVED SOCIETY | 464 |
| ARCHITECTS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY | 464 |

LAISSER-FAIRE.—The muddle of a colliery surface. Congestion is increased by the adjoining brickworks

JOURNAL OF THE
ROYAL INSTITUTE *of* BRITISH ARCHITECTS

VOL. 45. 3RD SERIES 7 MARCH 1938 No. 9

# Journal

### HEALTH, SPORT AND FITNESS

The Health, Sport and Fitness Exhibition was opened on Wednesday afternoon last by Lord Aberdare, who was introduced by the President with the suggestion that anyone who really wished to know why Lord Aberdare was Chairman of the National Fitness Council and by virtue of that office was the right person to open the Exhibition need only look in *Who's Who* to see how many and great are his athletic distinctions. If we, having taken the President's advice, were to attempt to repeat our findings here the length of their recital would at least save us the necessity of writing more, but would prevent any account of what Lord Aberdare said.

Some people, he thought, might not see at once the connection between architecture and physical fitness, but that was merely because people took for granted the gymnasia or baths in which they exercised themselves. The buildings were essential and their quality of first importance. Athletics and architecture had this in common that both required a quality of exactness. In architecture the severity that was sometimes unavoidable in buildings for physical recreation need not mean harshness. Even swimming baths, he suggested, could be made places of beauty; which prompted Mr. Murray Easton in his speech of thanks to say that architects were far from thinking swimming baths unappetising jobs, "they lapped up swimming baths." Lord Aberdare referred to the work of the Miners' Welfare Committee, on which he had served for many years, and endorsed from another angle the impressions that Mr. Forshaw's audience had received at his meeting on the previous Monday. Speaking on some of the wider aspects of health and their connection with architecture, Lord Aberdare said that it was deplorable that people should be forced to fly from the towns to seek fitness; a certain amount of foresight on the part of our ancestors could have preserved the towns of Britain as healthy places where a free, fit life could be lived.

The Exhibition, we may remind members, is open at the R.I.B.A. until 31 March, when it starts its tour. A series of lectures has been arranged during the Exhibition. The first, by Mr. John Gloag [*Hon. A.*], was given on the afternoon of the opening on the objects of the Exhibition. On 9 March Dr. J. Graham Forbes, F.R.C.P., will talk on "Health and Welfare"; on 15 March Mr. A. J. A. Symons on "The Rights of Leisure"; and on 23 March Mr. W. W. Wakefield, M.P., on "Organising Sport." All of these are free and members are asked particularly to encourage their friends, their lay friends, to come. They start on the dates given at 6.30 p.m.

### MR. E. G. CULPIN: CHAIRMAN, L.C.C.

Mr. E. G. Culpin [*F.*] has been nominated by the Labour Party majority on the London County Council to succeed Lord Snell as Chairman of the Council. Mr. Culpin has been a member of the Council for twelve years and was the first Labour Vice-Chairman. He is President of the Town Planning Institute and a member of the Minister of Health's Advisory Committee on Town Planning.

### R.D.I.

On Thursday, 17 February, the first of the new diplomas of the Royal Society of Arts were presented to the twelve designers who have been honoured with this distinction. The full designation which the recipients of the honour can use is "Designer for Industry of the Royal Society of Arts," a clumsy title which has rather cryptically been abbreviated to the initials R.D.I. Two of the new R.D.I.s are architects, Mr. C. F. A. Voysey and Mr. Keith Murray, though the award is for their work as industrial artists and not as architects, and many if not all the remainder are well known to members of the profession for work which in one way or another has some relation to architectural design. Mr. Eric Gill's work as a typographer is constantly before our eyes on the cover of the JOURNAL. Mr. Tom Purvis, Mr. Fred Taylor and Mr. McKnight Kauffer are poster artists whose work most architects would feel proud to have on the hoardings that obscure their buildings. All three of them have not only designed good posters and much else besides but have

helped to raise the whole prestige of poster art so that very largely through their indirect, and maybe direct, influence hoardings and poster sites of all kinds on buildings have been improved. Mr. James Hogan's stained glass and utility glass, which he has designed for Messrs. Powell for many years, was one of the few features of English industrial design which could be compared with Swedish work without a blush. Mr. J. H. Mason, printer and typographer ; Mr. Douglas Cockerell, bookbinder ; Mr. Murphy, silversmith ; Mr. Stabler, potter, and the late George Sheringham are all people whose work in every way deserves national honour. There are others whom, no doubt, keen advocates would like to see on the list, but as the first instalment, which clearly had to be kept modest in length, this list could hardly be bettered.

### Membership of the R.I.B.A.

The new edition of the R.I.B.A. "Membership Pamphlet" has now been published. The pamphlet is the complete guide to the methods of qualifying for entry to the various classes of R.I.B.A. membership. It contains information about the various examinations that candidates must pass and tables and maps and notes describing in detail the facilities for obtaining architectural education throughout the British Empire. Everything is here to answer the intending architect's questions. As there can be few members who are not asked at some time or another for advice on the methods of entry to the profession, this pamphlet, which can be obtained from the R.I.B.A. for a shilling exclusive of postage (1s. 2d. including postage), would seem to be a useful thing for every member to have by him.

### A.A.S.T.A. Essays

The A.A.S.T.A. competition for essays on "The Future and the Architectural Assistant" excited a good response numerically and produced winners that are sincere and for the most part helpful contributions to a discussion which did not start with this very good idea to hold a competition and is certainly not going to stop now that representative assistant opinion has been ventilated. The matter is quite as important to the "principals'" side of the profession as to the assistants, and realisation of this is likely to increase in the future even more rapidly than it has increased in recent years.

By many of the most vigorous contestants on the assistants' side the failure of the R.I.B.A. Council to lay down hard and fast and compulsory salary scales is regarded as wanton self-interest on the part of "the principals." This opinion appears in one of the essays in which the essayist has conjured up an array of sinister principals determined on nothing so much as to line their own pockets. In fact, this is no more an accurate picture of the profession than the figures of the R.I.B.A. Council membership which were given and which have been corrected by a letter in the press from the R.I.B.A. Secretary. It is indeed curious that an essayist so conscious of the part that assistants can and must play in architecture should not be aware of what can in some respects be considered the assistants most notable victory in obtaining an increase of Associate representation on the R.I.B.A. Council from a maximum of sixteen to a maximum of forty-five.

### Informal General Meeting

The Junior Members Committee have selected the appropriate title of "Health, Wealth and Architecture" for the Informal General Meeting on Wednesday, 16 March. The occasion will be one for members to visit the Health, Sport and Fitness Exhibition, to hear the impressions of some distinguished visitors who are being invited to speak and to discuss its general implications. The chairman is to be Mr. S. Pointon-Taylor [*F.*], Architect, the Ministry of Health. Tea will be served at 5.45 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6.30 p.m. The Junior Members Committee and the Exhibition Sub-Committee are anxious to hear the opinion of junior members on the Exhibition as a means of expressing to the public the work of architects on national health and well-being.

### Events at the Housing Centre

The day this number of the Journal is published, Viscountess Astor will open an exhibition, "New Schools for Old," at the Housing Centre at 5.30. This is only one, though an important event, of the remarkable number of meetings, exhibitions and discussions organised by the Centre for March. On 1 March Sir Wyndham Deedes spoke at one of their Tuesday lunches on the Case for Community Centres on New Estates, and the following other Tuesday lunches have also been arranged for the rest of the month : A paper by The Lady Sanderson on the Work of the Women's Advisory Housing Council on 8 March ; by Mr. W. Harding Thompson [*F.*], on Decentralisation as a National Policy, on 15 March ; by Mr. R. A. H. Livett [*A.*], on Housing in Leeds, on 22 March ; by Miss E. Murray, Westminster Housing Trust, Ltd., on House Property Management, on 29 March.

Mr. Serge Chermayeff [*F.*] will speak on 5 April on the Work of the MARS Group.

These lunches, which cost 1s. for non-members, are tremendously good value both in food and talk, and deserve to be patronised by architects more than they are.

Besides the lunches, the Housing Centre has organised a film evening on housing on 14 March and a tour of housing schemes by the Westminster Housing Trust on 22 March, details of which can be had from Mrs. Waller at the Housing Centre, 13 Suffolk Street, S.W.1.

*Bank Hall Baths, Lancashire, by J. H. Bourne A.*

# THE ARCHITECTURAL WORK OF THE MINERS' WELFARE COMMITTEE

*By J. H. FORSHAW, F.R.I.B.A., CHIEF ARCHITECT TO THE COMMITTEE*

A Paper read before The Royal Institute of British Architects on Monday, 21 February 1938
The President, Mr. H. S. Goodhart-Rendel [*F.*], in the Chair

A reference to social history should not be unexpected in a paper dealing with architecture; indeed, the history of a country is largely the history of its social architecture. If you know much of the homes of a people, of their towns, countryside and trade, then you will know much of the life of that people and of their character. To know where and how the miner lives, the nature of his work, and how he likes best to occupy his leisure time is to understand him and his needs.

## The Background of the Past

The historical and social condition cannot be overlooked; it is the backcloth to a foreground of change out of which the architect's problems arise.

The architecture of this country that has *lived* is the architecture of the eighteenth century; it was the grand architecture—the outcome of the Grand Tour—and it survives, because it was designed by men who themselves knew the art of living and of working. These eighteenth-century architects

designed and built for English life as it then was, in the towns or in the country. Had these same men lived in the next century, we might have been spared the muddle and the bad planning of our industrial towns. They would have built as effectively for the growing industrial communities of the Victorian era as they had done in the quieter Georgian times. Few in number, they were engaged often with large schemes, too busy to train pupils and to pass on their powers.

The war with France had made foreign travel unfashionable ; everyone was too busy getting coal, making steel and spinning cotton. There was little time to think of planning factories or housing—the works engineer and the town surveyor would do the plans and get on with the job in fine style—that was the view of the day. The great industrialists had forgotten that their forefathers were patrons of the arts, and had directed the planning and built our few fine towns. Also they had laid out and planted the landscape which is our heritage.

To-day, the twentieth century is putting its architects to a test in design, and whether their buildings are houses, schools or factories they are in a very real sense on trial. To design for our age is the task left to us, to guide our countrymen where to live and work and to preserve for their enjoyment, a landscape which the eighteenth century largely created. To-day, the Grand Tour is fashionable again, and the young architect crowds into this trip—it is no longer called the tour—the homes of every country, new works and factories, schools, bridges and playgrounds. He does not dismiss the French château or even the Rhine castle ; it may be the next film-setting, but he is frugal, that he may linger in Sweden, Holland and in Finland, perhaps.

And thus our own history and social customs, and the influence of foreign travel, make their effect on the architecture of the day.

### The Aim of the Miners' Welfare Committee

It has always been conceded that the miners as a body are amongst the most courageous of our countrymen. Health, recreation, and the cultural aspects of the miners' lives are matters of deep concern to the Miners' Welfare Committee, and to us as architects, dealing with the problems arising therefrom.

Our work has one distinct aim—that of recreating an atmosphere woefully deficient in more senses than one. We regard this as a first consideration in all our schemes, whether it is a pithead bath, a recreational institute, sports ground or other scheme. It is not easy to define, but it is manifested by making the health, comfort and general well-being of the users the prime consideration, which for convenience, I describe as the " Welfare Condition," this same care being given in the design and detail of fittings, equipment and apparatus. This does not imply that we do not pay attention to costs—our limited funds compel us to secure the maximum benefits, but in every case we provide at least a reasonable minimum.

The Miners' Welfare Committee measure success in terms of improved health and of leisure wisely spent. Nevertheless, it is important that individual schemes should prosper under their own management. Our buildings, which are handed over to trustees representing the local interests of men and owners, are designed substantially and equipped so as to require a minimum expenditure on upkeep.

Many buildings fulfil their primary function, as, for example, some of our older schools ; and yet these same buildings do not meet fully those other equally important requirements which I have described.

On the other hand, there are many new buildings to-day which fulfil both these conditions in a very remarkable and advanced way. We must agree that we are meeting within the walls of a building that fulfils admirably its first purpose, the headquarters of a profession—or as Mr. Carter would have it, a learned society.

I am sure we all recognise that this fine building belongs to a new age in design and planning ; and it is perhaps not inappropriate, therefore, that I should venture to consider our schemes as belonging to this same new age. In spirit I think they are near together. This building is essentially civic and monumental in character, and our buildings, designed for health and pleasure, are no less civic in their social requirements. Mr. Wornum will, I trust, allow this allusion.

### Growth of the Demand

It is a short time since the social importance of pithead baths was recognised and it is difficult to regard even the early efforts historically. The demand to-day is universal and it is not easy to single out a particular cause as the reason for the long delay in the general acceptance.

The miners' leaders advocated baths at the beginning of the century and the older men admit that the miners, as a body, must themselves share responsibility for their earlier indifference.

This lack of enthusiasm was not due to apathy,

nor to a desire to continue washing before the fire in their homes as generations before them had done, but to the fact that there was missing from the proposals an essential quality. The miner was traditionally cautious, enquiring and hesitant. The "essential quality" was, I believe, the "Welfare Condition" which I stress, because it not only restores personal dignity, but gives dignity to the labour itself. It was "just that something" that the others had not got, rather abstract but concerned with self-respect, health and comfort and perhaps a little luxury. The miner could not express this omission in the scheme of things clearly, but we assume that he concluded that it could not be "just like home." If you had asked the miners at this time for reasons why the pithead baths did not appeal to them, the replies would not have been convincing. The reasons they gave were many and varied but rather vague. And so the matter rested, with the few earnest leaders frustrated. Undismayed, however, small groups of enthusiastic men and owners were in touch with the industry abroad ; and parties of men from the coalfields made tours to inspect pithead baths in France, Belgium and Germany.

Early in 1913 a Welsh miner visited the Lens coalfield in the Pas-de-Calais, and contributed his praise, as well as his doubts and fears, to the June issue of *The Welsh Outlook*. Extracts from this report tell us a great deal about his point of view ; he said :—

"These were the first set of baths for us miners to see, and I must say that we felt very interested indeed as we approached them. On each side of the big room there were 20 compartments about 4 ft. square and a jet about the middle of the compartment, so that each bather could regulate the water as he required it.

"Each man found his own soap and towel, and there was no danger of his having to use water in which someone else had washed, because it ran off as he was using it. So clean water for each man, as we saw it, kills a heap of stories in South Wales.

"There was to each compartment a revolving door which gave it the necessary privacy. After seeing for myself the working of the baths . . . and hearing the answers given to hundreds of questions by all concerned from inspector to miner, I am absolutely convinced that it would be the greatest kindness and blessing for us, as miners in South Wales, as well as in other places, to adopt the French system, for it is by far the cleanest and best.

"So after putting all together I feel I can heartily recommend pithead baths to my fellow-workers, and appeal to them to accept this blessing when offered to them."

This report of the Welsh miner, *after seeing for himself*, was convincing and carried weight with his fellow-miners. Whether his name was Thomas does not matter here, he had rendered the cause a good service and it seemed that the establishment of pithead baths in this country would surely develop. In 1913 the Ocean Coal Company built their first baths at their Treharris Colliery, and Messrs. Fletcher Burrows, now merged with Manchester Collieries, Limited, built baths at Atherton Collieries in Lancashire. The Wemyss Coal Company built baths at their Wellesley Colliery, Fife ; completed at the end of 1914, they were taken over and put into operation for the Army. The War and its consequent upheaval put an end to the work of the pioneers for its duration and for some time afterwards.

These three pioneer schemes were not, however, the earliest miners' baths to be built in this country. In the prophetic county, a small bath—and rather primitive in type—is claimed to have been established at a colliery near Oldham as early as 1892, and a more elaborate bath at Douglas Colliery in Scotland about 1909.

### 1920, The Fund Established—Its Administration

By 1920 the pioneers had been roused to action again and Parliament passed the Mining Industry Act of that year, which established the Miners' Welfare Fund, and required that the welfare fund derived from a levy on the coal output should be used "for purposes connected with the social well-being, recreation and conditions of living of the workers in or about coal mines, and with mining education and research." The other source of revenue is that known as the Royalties Levy, which was established by the Mining Industry Act of 1926 and is derived from a levy of one shilling in the pound on coal royalties. This Act charged the Miners' Welfare Committee with the duty of providing washing and clothes-drying accommodation at every mine in Great Britain so far as it was practicable to do so.

The work of administering the fund is undertaken by a committee appointed by the Board of Trade, representing jointly the mine workers and the coal

and royalty owners, with two independent members, under the direction of an independent chairman (Maj.-General The Rt. Hon. Sir Frederick Sykes).

The total amount of the fund at the end of last year was in round figures £16,700,000, and from this large total, grants for the provision of approved welfare facilities had been made to the amount of £16,523,000. Of this last total, nearly £5,000,000 had been allocated for pithead baths up to the end of 1937.

For the next few years the annual rate of expenditure on pithead baths has been increased to £625,000 per annum in order to deal with the most urgent cases as quickly as possible. The schemes in operation at 31 December last provide washing and clothes-drying accommodation for more than one-third of the total number of men employed in the industry to-day.

Nearly five and a half million pounds has been allocated to provide playfields, children's playgrounds and institutes.

### Plans—British and Continental

Before the Act of 1926, establishing the baths fund, was in force, a number of pithead bath schemes had been built at the more progressive collieries. All the early installations in this country followed in design the typical installations erected on the Continent. These installations consist essentially of a large and lofty hall surrounded by shower bath cubicles, the entrance to the cubicles being screened either by staggered arms in the form of a "T" or by doors. The great hall is used both for undressing and for dressing, and is equipped with a system of ropes or chains by which either the clean or pit clothes, as the case may be, are hoisted and suspended for drying in the upper part of the hall.

This type of continental plan has serious disadvantages in principle and in detail. The use of a common changing room for clean and dirty men is obviously unsatisfactory in many ways and the committee determined upon the complete isolation or "separation" of the washed man and his clean clothes from the unwashed man and his pit clothes.

This decision was largely due to the research work undertaken by Commander Coote, the central committee's welfare adviser at that time. It marked the introduction of "welfare" into the work; it was, in that sense, fundamental. Moreover, it definitely established the principle of first consideration for users, and departed from putting first considerations of cost and the mere fulfilling of the letter of an Act. In that way it placed British methods far in advance of the continental system. We had therefore our traditional late start in this important social work.

The acceptance of the principle of "separation" of clean and dirty clothes was the first step, and *not* the method of drying. The locker system was used at some few pits on the Continent and it was clear that where any choice had been given to the men, the locker was preferred to that of the hoisting chain. This is noticeable in all the sections reserved to the deputies or overmen, and in the Belgian baths at Winterslag, adjoining the Dutch frontier, the whole installation is equipped with lockers. There was no provision of clean and pit sections in any foreign schemes and the same locker was used for home and pit clothes; in consequence, the system retained many of the defects of the old hoisting method. It is interesting to know that the Germans now favour "separation" and are introducing pit and clean sections in their new schemes. In 1927 the German companies considered the extra cost involved in the provision of separate sections quite unnecessary—it is an interesting change of opinion, and there can be little doubt that it is our British system that has brought this about.

In Germany, baths are provided by the colliery companies under regulations and the accommodation is planned as a definite part of the colliery buildings, and it is compulsory for the men employed to use them. There are no joint management committees constituted as in our British schemes, and this results in the baths having the atmosphere of an institution controlled under bye-laws. The men are segregated by ages, for example, under 16, 16 to 22, 22 to 40, 40 to 60; it is altogether an organisation planned in a "Kadett"-"landsturm" way. This segregation is secured by low walls running across the main clothes hall and carried up about eight feet high; it is rather depressing in appearance, and resembles the pens of a cattle market.

### Lockers and Standard Equipment

The principle of "separation" having been adopted, for our schemes, the method of stowing and drying clothes was of next importance. None of the clothes lockers produced by manufacturers up to that time was suited for the special purpose. The locker system to be a success entailed the design and construction of a clothes locker specially suited for the use of miners, the first requirement

being efficiency in drying clothes; that locker was produced and something like 600,000 have been installed in over 200 schemes to date.

This early problem of locker design was vital; the nest of lockers was the "unit" in the order of planning. The lockers not only stowed and dried the clothes but their design incorporated the essential seating for use in the changing rooms. The position of the "nests" required that congestion did not arise and the arrangement must facilitate circulation. The spacing at the correct distance apart, having in mind that the seating in front of opposite rows might be in use at the same time, was a matter of careful experiment. The saving of a few inches was important and meant a saving of feet in large locker rooms. The locker room was evolved (a) around the equipment it was to house and (b) around the "circulations" it was to enclose. This was the standardised mass-produced equipment and the same principles applied also, in a less degree, in determining the size, shape and spacing of the shower-bath cubicles. The installation became a co-ordinated whole, with essentials in equipment related to essentials in planning. That did not mean that we had produced a standardised building, because every site varies in shape and few collieries are of the same size. Even when the total number of men is similar, as in some few cases, the size of the working shifts invariably differs widely. Suitable ancillary accommodation such as a first-aid room, boot-cleaning and greasing sections, water-bottle filling and attendants' room, stores and a canteen are all based on a scale related to the size of the largest shift, and to the winding-time. In this way congestion or undue waiting is avoided as far as possible.

The great advantage of these decisions concerning equipment, scale of accommodation and planning, ensured that all the baths built by the Central Welfare Committee would be in accordance with a uniform scale; the scale would, in fact, ensure all the coalfields having schemes similarly equipped on the basis of an agreed national scale, as indeed it has proved. The advantages of the method are obvious. Apart from the great economies that are effected in the bulk purchase of equipment and fittings, there is the influence of an intimate control on the work by a committee in close touch with both sides of the industry. Above all, it had the valuable and satisfying characteristic that it did not lead to differences of opinion or of practice in the different parts of the coalfields. The pioneers in this country reproduced one or other of the types they had seen abroad, either in France or Belgium; actually one or two English schemes followed their continental model so closely that they left out all provision of a sanitary nature. This was in order to secure more square feet of hanging space for clothes, thereby accommodating a few more men.

It was the realisation of the shortcomings of the existing English schemes that convinced the central committee of the need to examine the whole problem afresh. To seek the miner's point of view and to benefit from his observations and advice, they established four experimental baths in different districts before launching out on their main building programme. The opinion of the users at first hand was thus obtained, and the criticisms and observations of visitors from all parts of the coalfields. Before the completion of the fourth experimental baths, and, in fact, by the opening of the third scheme, the committee were satisfied that the principles of this new idea were on the right lines.

At this point (1928) the central committee decided that their small staff of architects and quantity surveyors should be augmented for the purpose of building baths at those collieries where the men had agreed to use them as quickly as possible.

### The Architect's Office

This decision to set up a central architectural staff to carry out the constructional work envisaged the method of establishing baths at all collieries as required by the Act of 1926. It envisaged, too, the application of the committee's principles in design and the embodiment, in all future schemes, of results gained by experience in building and in the operation of the experimental installations and subsequent schemes. Moreover, it made possible the concentration of effort on a specialised social work and ensured a continuity in improvement. It facilitated co-ordination not only in development but also in the establishment of baths on a time and order basis.

It has, I venture to say, maintained these conditions and in addition created a liaison with the personnel of the industry on all sides that is invaluable and, I believe, could not have been secured by any other method.

The staff organisation of the architect's office is based on methods which have grown out of the needs of the problem. The work, by its social character, is urgent; it is widespread, in that it lies

in all the different coalfields. These two conditions require that the organisation should be able to deal with an annual programme of work based on the funds available and that it should be sectionalised so as to work by units in the different districts. The organisation is therefore by "teams" or "firms," sized to the volume of work in the geographical areas served. In the former respect it resembles the system obtaining in the large American offices, but in our method of approach to the work and in the continuity of development, it is perhaps more in parallel with the now famous architect's office of the Swedish Co-operative Society.

In the architectural approach we have not been confounded by example or precedent—although the value of tradition and good example is recognised, the greater freedom has perhaps been more valuable. The problem envisaged from the outset a wider service to the miner than the bare provision of washing and clothes-drying facilities could provide.

The provision of baths from the welfare fund is not enforced; the offer to provide them goes out from the secretary of the welfare committee to the coal companies on an agreed priority basis—generally after consultation with the district welfare committees, on which the men and owners are equally represented. At the outset the requests for baths were very limited; propaganda was necessary, but it was found that a new bath in a district soon converted the whole community and no one more quickly than the womenfolk. Colliery companies now find baths to be an indispensable inducement to retain their men or to engage them for new employment.

### Controlling Factors in Design

I have described the gradual evolution of the bath building, not standard in plan but equipped with uniform fittings and apparatus; the "resultant" of this process had features and characteristics peculiar to itself. The existence of dominant essential requirements expressed simple elevational treatment. The water storage tower, which is essential, and the two large locker rooms at once provide the elements of composition. These units can be disposed in a variety of ways as the plan dictates. The site shape, and access for men and services, the location of the cycle store, and the lamp room on the route to and from the pitshafts largely determine the plan. The entrances to the pit and clean sides of the building fix the main lines of "circulation" within the building; the maintenance of this "circulation" is essential to the system of "separation" whereby washed and unwashed do not meet. Within these limits we plan the building and site it to pick up all the accommodation in turn and as required. With one major variation, namely, the inclusion of actual washing and bathing and the substitution of boot brushing for greasing, the progress "going on shift" is reversed on return to the surface from underground.

In selecting the site, attention is paid to its suitability for building upon, its position in regard to the convenience of the men and the working of the colliery, so as to reduce fatigue and assist operations by the establishment of recognised surface routes.

The demands of hard service are severe and construction must be substantial. The problem of wear on floors and staircases, and in rooms and corridors, is, I think, comparable with the problem of wear in the London Tube stations. There is a "rush" period in both, to a less degree in the baths; nevertheless, it exists. The miners coming off-shift press forward with a hurrying bustle; it is a matter of life and death, so it seems, to be first to get a bath and change. At a colliery employing 2,500 men, for example, this number will pass through twice each working day. In five working days 25,000 men—a fair-sized football crowd—will use the building, the equipment and the fittings. That is a load to contemplate, and it would compare, in weight and "rough going," with more than the equivalent numbers in the traffic of our Tube railways. Clean and durable wall surfaces are necessary; and bright and attractive colours set an atmosphere of cheerfulness. Well-designed, simple fittings of robust manufacture have proved economical.

Modified planning and a reduced scale of accommodation is provided for schemes at small collieries and where women are still employed. We endeavour to maintain the principle of providing "clean" and "pit" sections at all costs, but in other matters we consider that the problem is more that of the dressing-rooms and common bathroom of a sports ground or club—in other words, it assumes a character nearer to the "domestic" than the "institutional." The proposals for baths at those collieries with short lives (down to 10 years in some cases) receive special consideration, and in approved cases provision is made of a less substantial character in shell and finish.

COST

In the matter of cost, the work is controlled within a tolerably rigid scale of standard accommodation and the narrow limits of a "model" specification reviewed from time to time.

The building having equipment of unusual character, it is difficult to convey a clear impression of cost on any unit basis employed in general practice. The obvious method is to consider and regulate the cost on the basis of the price per man accommodated, and the average cost per man is £12 4s. 6d. for all installations tendered for up to the end of last year. I think that it is not unreasonable to compare this cost per head with that for schools, making allowance for the difference in equipment and finishes, which varies from £20-£40 per place.

To have had our field of activity for the most part in congested, blighted and disordered urban areas has had, I think, its compensations. It cannot fail to have an influence for good ; the presentation of great contrasts must arrest the attention and inspire all, in efforts of amelioration. Moreover, the desire for cleanliness and better surroundings is permeating the homes of the miners, the minds of their womenfolk and the youthful experience of their children.

There are many, I suspect, who would not admit a case for "good manners" in industrial architecture, but those same people would, I think, agree that good building is "good business." By "good manners" I mean neighbourliness, taste, and the absence of a blatant advertisement, and by "good business" orderliness, direct and simple planning that gives efficiency, and withal a quiet advertisement.

Often our schemes initiate improvement and replanning, and inasmuch as they do this, they have a great potential value for everyone living in the mining districts. It is not that all our mining areas are in a state of chaos from a planning point of view, but the incidence of coal mining leaves its trail and there are some spots that are black and dismal. It is in these that we endeavour to make a new building or a new recreational ground the nucleus of improvement.

In the recreational layouts attention is paid to design and planting, and in the larger schemes, features of special interest and landscape value are not overlooked in the general development.

We do this by paying attention to the wise selection of sites, the particular requirements of the scheme and of the locality it is to serve. By consulting with the town planning authorities, improvement is often stimulated and an erstwhile bare piece of ground becomes not merely playing-fields but by judicious planting, an attractive park and consequently a civic improvement.

It is as important for the nation as a whole that the miner and his family should live and work under conditions conducive to good health as it is for the industry itself.

It may be that the problem of improvement or amelioration appears often so hopelessly impossible that even a small measure of success comes as a great surprise. Perhaps to a few sensitive souls it is a relief as well. To still fewer it is an occasion to reflect that they, too, might have taken more care in their developments, but with the great majority, their surprise finds expression in praise of a new health and of a new use of leisure.

It would seem that a few welfare buildings have been able to arouse a new interest in industrial and social architecture. And I say a few buildings, because, scattered as they are, over all the coalfields, they are rather lost, and indeed some are quite isolated in remote places.

I believe that it is this apparent hopeless aspect of the problem that in the end spurs everyone to action and from which very often the unexpected emerges. The interest and joy of planning is as nothing to the interest and joy of re-planning ; the latter instils a sense of satisfaction not easily explainable—a feeling of setting wrongs right.

The initial stage of a great social reform has often passed unnoticed on account of its simplicity. The pithead bath springs from a desire for self-respect, which, at the bottom, is the right of the miner to be on terms of equality with his fellow-countrymen. By the medium of baths the mining community established and will maintain its contact with the other communities of the nation, without a sense of isolation as in the past.

*Information about the work of the committee and illustrations of the buildings can be found in the Annual Reports of the Miners' Welfare Fund* (*H.M.S.O. 1s. 6d. net.*). *Reference should also be made to the articles in R.I.B.A. Journal 7 Sept. 1935 and Architects Journal 12 and 19 July 1934*

# VOTE OF THANKS AND DISCUSSION

Major-General the Rt. Hon. Sir FREDERICK SYKES, P.C., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.B.E., etc. (Chairman of the Miners' Welfare Committee) : It is with great pleasure that I rise to propose a vote of thanks to Mr. Forshaw for his paper.

Mr. Forshaw's lecture is of particular interest to us who have to deal with modern industrial problems, such as mines, factories and housing. As he has said, the industrial revolution of a century ago was, from the æsthetic point of view, disastrous. England changed from an agricultural to an industrial country as at a touch of the magician's wand. England's " green and pleasant land " was defiled by " dark, satanic mills," as Blake has told us. And not only mills, but with tall chimneys belching smoke, and enormous and ever-growing slag heaps. *Laisser-faire* was the economic doctrine of the time, and now we are reaping its fruits in our vast slums—industrial and domestic—which constitute an immense social problem.

Since the war there has been renewed activity in building, which has brought opportunities for planning new developments, designed in a style of architecture incorporating up-to-date improvements, of which you have seen many examples in the pithead baths shown on the screen. Modern transport, too, has made it no longer necessary for the workers to dwell next door to their work, and social legislation compels us to adopt higher standards of comfort and cleanliness.

All this brings new opportunities, but at the same time new dangers. Are we going to allow ribbon building to ruin what remains of our beautiful countryside ? Shall we permit fine old buildings to be destroyed wholesale in order to make room for expansion ? These are questions which must be answered quickly, or the damage will be irreparable.

Speaking as a layman, I think that the best architecture of to-day has a charm of its own and can surely be just as expressive of our age as Gothic and Renaissance architecture were of the past ; but the worst architecture of to-day is to me, to use a mild term, most unpleasant. Speaking still as a layman, what I look for in architecture is simplicity and sincerity. My favourite house is Queen Anne, with its fine windows and its beautifully proportioned rooms. The object of all good building is the adaptation of means to ends, and nothing is more offensive than to see, say, a prison built to resemble—on the outside—a Norman castle. I was very glad to note, when Sir Giles Gilbert Scott undertook the building of the great University Library at Cambridge, that he had the good sense, if I may say so, to erect not a pseudo-Gothic pile but a plain and dignified brick building, admirably adapted for its end, the storing and study of books. To take another example nearer home, I can never look at the stately chimneys of the Battersea power station without admiring their grace and proportion and the sense of power which they convey.

I am afraid, however, that I am wandering from my subject. The lecture has been concerned principally with pithead baths, in which I take particular interest as Chairman of the Miners' Welfare Fund. We have, as I think you will agree from the pictures which you have just seen, endeavoured to avoid ugliness, while at the same time no money has been wasted on superfluous ornament or on trying to pretend that pithead baths are anything else but that which they really are. The lecturer has rightly emphasised the value of this from the physical and the mental points of view. The miner works under drab, depressing conditions, and he must be given pleasing contours and cheerful colours to look upon when his daily task is finished. If you will take a glance at the excellent photographs which illustrate the annual report of the Miners' Welfare Fund you will see what I mean.

Mr. Forshaw has also told us of the immense amount of thought and careful planning which are necessary to meet all the requirements. The pithead bath must be cheap ; it must be durable ; and it must be efficient. I think you will all agree that nothing less than a social revolution is being brought about in the coalfields by pithead baths, which have made an immeasurable difference to the contentment, health and efficiency not only of the miners but also of their families. What is more, these baths have been built on a co-operative principle ; both the miners and the employers have contributed to the welfare fund from which the capital outlay is provided, and they co-operate again in the maintenance of the baths, having equal representation on the management committees.

The pithead baths, however, are only a part, though an important part, of the provision for the miners' welfare, which may include recreation grounds and halls, libraries, hospitals, gardens and many other things ; and all these are treated according to the same general plan. If you examine the illustrations in the annual report which I have mentioned you will see that they are unpretentious, simple, and pleasing in their effect.

We have, I think, heard enough to-night to show what organised planning can effect, and I hope that the day will come when the " dark, satanic " coal-pit is no longer satanic, but will have a grace and beauty of its own. I ask you to join in according a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Forshaw for his interesting paper.

Mr. H. M. FLETCHER (Hon. Secretary) : It gives me very great pleasure to second the vote of thanks to Mr. Forshaw. This evening we have seen civilisation on the march, and real civilisation, by which I mean a form of progress which is the result of persuasion and not of dictation. It is quite evident from what Mr. Forshaw has said and from what Sir Frederick Sykes has said that that has been the history of the pithead baths.

There was something which Mr. Forshaw said at the beginning of his paper which puzzled me a little ; perhaps he will give us an explanation. He said that in the first stage the miners did not like the pithead baths because there was no " welfare " about them. We all know that every society and every movement falls in some way into its own slang. The word " welfare " does not sound like slang, it sounds like good, ordinary English, but I could not understand exactly what that statement meant, and I suspect that it is welfare slang. Does it mean that the miners did not like them because they thought that it was an attempt to impose cleanliness on them from above? That would be a perfectly natural and reasonable objection to make. I should like to know exactly what it does mean.

In any case, this movement, which has attracted so little attention from the public at large, has been the result, as we can clearly see, of co-operation between the miners and the colliery owners, and one of the most remarkable things about it is that the Miners' Welfare Committee or somebody has induced the colliery owners to take up this movement and put their backs into it. That is something which I think no one could have expected beforehand. It must have been the result of very great diplomatic powers on the part of the Welfare Committee.

Mr. Forshaw is clearly a very modest man, because he has praised all the different architects who have contributed to these buildings and has said nothing about his own share in them. It seems pretty clear, however, that in that work of conciliation and diplomacy Mr. Forshaw must have borne a great part.

Mr. WILL LAWTHER (Executive Secretary, Durham Miners' Association ; Vice-President of the Mineworkers' Federation of Great Britain) : As a member of the Welfare Committee, and as miners' representative on the Committee, I want to add my tribute to what has been said about the work which Mr. Forshaw and his associates have done in relation to trying to change the dull, drab monotony which is found in colliery village life. I want to correct Mr. Fletcher, however, when he said that the miner had to be induced to agree to pithead baths. If Mr. Fletcher had followed correctly the paper which Mr. Forshaw read, he would have found that it was the miners themselves who led the others into seeing the necessity for the erection of pithead baths.

I do not want to enter upon anything controversial, but one of the first fruits of the National Government was the reduction of the good work which the welfare movement was doing, by reducing the levy from 1d. a ton to ½d. a ton. All the good work which has been described to you by Mr. Forshaw and which has been shown on the screen would have been increased a hundredfold if that levy had not been reduced, so that you who have a love of the beautiful could have had it intensified in that direction !

I do want to say quite frankly, as one who has been an actual working miner, and who started work underground at twelve and a half years of age, and belonged to a large family, that only those who have witnessed the tremendous change that pithead baths have brought about in colliery village life, not only to the men but particularly to the womenfolk, can appreciate what it has meant. I am only sorry that my mother did not live to see it and to appreciate the change which has taken place. There was a time when in a colliery village the most beautiful building used to be either the vicarage or the colliery manager's house, but you will see by the changes which have been described that the most beautiful things now in a colliery village are the welfare schemes.

The pleasing feature about it is that neither the workmen nor the management—and, after all, the manager of a colliery is only the office boy—regard this as " mine " ; they all regard it as " ours." That is the thing which dominates it, and I only wish—and I say this quite candidly—that the same conception in relation to colliery life and in relation to the life of the miners generally operated throughout. I wish that the conceptions which we find in the welfare schemes prevailed everywhere.

I do not want to praise my chairman, but I have said this before others who have criticised him : I wish that the outlook which permeates the welfare movement could be found throughout the mining world. If that was so you would hear less of the worries and troubles of coal than you do at the moment and than you are likely, I am afraid, to do in the future.

There can be no question whatever that the miner does appreciate what has been done. While I have no doubt that many of you believe him to be a rough, uncouth, unkempt animal, despite the fact that now and again he has produced a playwright and a novelist, perhaps not quite so good as Shakespeare but a great deal better than some, there is no doubt that the miner does appreciate this scheme.

The welfare movement has done a great deal on its health side also. Mr. Forshaw has shown you on the screen the Priory at Ulverstone, which is in Lancashire, but it does not belong to Lancashire ; it belongs to Durham. It is a convalescent home for Durham. There are some well-meaning people who come along every now and again to instruct us and to help us, and they wanted there to be a convalescent home and said, " There is an old building here which somebody cannot use ; why not have that? " I remember our old president, who has gone to the land of his fathers, said " No. These men have lived in the county all their life, and, when they are injured or ill, for God's sake let us get them out of it altogether." He therefore set about to get a convalescent home which was outside the county of Durham, and it is true that apart from those who had a free trip during the war the only time some of them have been outside the borders of their county is when they go to this convalescent home.

That does indicate the changes which have been brought about. We have even been able to enter your own sphere, if I may speak of you as black-coated workers, in so far as we have given the opportunity to miners' sons and daughters by money from the welfare fund to enter the university. There is no credit in remaining in the pits ; the only people who stop there are those who cannot get out. We have given from this fund the opportunity to the sons and daughters of miners to enter other spheres, in order to prove that, after all, if given the chance, the miner and his family can make good.

Professor ABERCROMBIE [*F.*] : I often wonder whether eminent architects like being reminded of the fact that they were once the students of hoary-headed professors. Mr. Forshaw, whether he liked his professors or not, is, I am sure, very much liked and admired by my colleague Reilly and me, who had the pleasure of dealing with him when he was a good deal younger at Liverpool. We cannot help feeling that his study of architecture and town planning then has been of benefit to him in his capacity as chief architect to the Miners' Welfare Committee.

I should like to say a word from my own point of view, the aspect of town planning. Although he is not practising at the moment that mystic art, I think we must all have felt that he has the spirit of planning behind his work. He has had an opportunity on one or two occasions in his office, as he has explained to us, of actually preparing the general layout of a complete pithead. I think that we must feel as architects that we can contribute something to the engineers of industry in the orderly laying-out of their businesses. We have been shown several photographs showing what might, I think, legitimately be described as disorderly arrangement.

I remember during the war being concerned with a housing scheme in the neighbourhood not of a pit but of a great steelworks, and, during the few years we were building that housing scheme, the office building in connection with the steelworks was rebuilt three times, because it was in the wrong place and had to be removed, all due to the lack of planning in the general layout. We have seen how the good planning and good design of these pithead baths have influenced and are influencing the improvement and clearing-up and straightening-out of these extremely complicated examples of industrial planning, the pitheads.

I should like to mention two directions in which this miners' welfare work, and particularly the provision of pithead baths, is of extreme interest to architects at the present time. In the first place, it is an extraordinarily valuable example of the uses of standardisation. As Mr. Forshaw has pointed out so ably in his paper, these pithead baths are built up out of essentially standardised units. The locker is the smallest unit of one part of a building and the cubicle of the other. These standardised units are manufactured and purchased in enormous quantities at greatly reduced cost, but—and here is the important thing—though I have examined a great many designs of pithead baths, no two buildings are alike. Every one presents its own essential problem : there is the site, there are questions of access, there are questions of the different shifts worked in different collieries, there are the different wishes of the men in different areas—in some areas most of the men like to bath together, and in others the majority like to use cubicles—and so on. The different problems in each case produce in each case an individual building for every pithead bath, and that is an example of what I suggest is the right application of standardisation to architectural design for modern purposes.

The other aspect, and the one which will interest our President very particularly, is this. I think that the miners' welfare work is one of the best examples in this country of official architecture. I myself believe that this work could not have been carried out in anything like so rapid and so efficient a manner by any other means. We have here a definite job of work which has to be done as rapidly as possible. We should like it to be done a little more rapidly, as Mr. Lawther said, but we are limited to an expenditure of £600,000 a year. That does not represent a bad volume of work to be turned out every year. In detail the work is largely standardised, but in spite of that standardisation minor improvements are continually being brought into it. The whole thing is centralised, so that the knowledge gained is pooled at headquarters, and then, under Mr. Forshaw's able management, there is decentralisation of the actual design and execution, the attribution of the work to different principal architects. Here we have the enormous advantage of this centralised method of working, the pooling of ideas, individual interest and rapid execution, and there is the enormous advantage of comparing costs at headquarters ; the slightest rise in prices is noted, and any means of cheapening the work which is discovered anywhere is brought to headquarters and the information pooled, so that use is at once made of it.

I therefore think that for us as architects this work of the miners' welfare organisation, with its emphasis on standardisation, its efficient management from headquarters under Mr. Forshaw, and so on, is a most valuable example of architecture at the present day.

I will not say anything on the quality of the design ; I think that that has been demonstrated to us. When we look at these old industrial sheds and buildings—though some of them are almost contemporary with the pithead baths—and see how an attempt has occasionally been made to make them interesting by the addition of a little ornament or some unnecessary buttresses or pilasters, and when we compare the sort of industrial art which used to be practised with what we see now before us in these welfare buildings, we must all thank modern architecture for having swept away into the limbo all that trash, and for having given us straightforward, honest design such as we have seen on the screen this evening.

Mr. G. A. JELLICOE [*F.*] : I came prepared with a good speech, but Professor Abercrombie in his last remarks has said most of what I had intended to say myself. I have had great pleasure in co-operating professionally with Mr. Forshaw, and his organisation is as interesting as his architecture. I will not repeat what Professor Abercrombie has said, but I think that we should give his remarks grave consideration in view of our interest in the control of good national design throughout this country.

The other point which I want to discuss is the relation of modern industrial coalmining design in this country to that of other countries. It is quite true, as Mr. Forshaw has implied, that our pithead baths in this country are far and away in advance of those in Germany (which are probably the most modern of their kind abroad), but if we examine

the German pithead buildings *as a whole*, we find that these are altogether better planned and designed. Coalowners tell us somewhat ruefully that the Germans have plenty of money to spend and we have not, but the fact remains that the vast sums that have been spent have led to extraordinarily fine results. In each case an architect is employed. I think that every coalowner in this country should go to Germany and see the examples there, and consider from them seriously whether it benefits to employ an architect.

Mr. HENRY V. ASHLEY : There is one question which I should like to ask Mr. Forshaw. It has been indicated that it was the miners themselves who persuaded the welfare organisation to build pithead baths for them, but last summer I was in a certain northern district, which I will not name, and I visited a very big colliery there and saw the manager (the office boy to whom Mr. Lawther referred), and he showed us over the colliery. I asked him how it was that he had no pithead baths, and he told me quite frankly that they had had a vote among the miners as to whether they wanted pithead baths and the miners by a very large majority had said that they did not. That seems to be rather retrograde, judged from all we have heard this evening, and I should like to know from Mr. Forshaw whether there is any compulsion on owners of collieries to adopt pithead baths, which quite evidently are such an advantage to all miners.

Mr. A. D. STEDMAN, M.B.E. (Secretary of the Miners' Welfare Committee) : I think that this subject has been very thoroughly canvassed this evening, and there is nothing very much for me to say as the Secretary of the Welfare Committee, but perhaps I might answer Mr. Ashley, because his question does fall rather within my province. I can say from my experience that it is very rare indeed to find a pit where a ballot of the workmen shows a decision against having pithead baths. The applications which we have in hand now for pithead baths exceed what can be done with our £600,000 a year for five or six years ahead. Our money will not be sufficient to meet all the applications at pits which have definitely balloted, and I know that there are many others which want baths but have not taken the trouble to ballot, partly because a ballot is not necessary, and partly, no doubt, because they know that a certain priority list has been arranged and they would not stand high enough up to make the provision of baths for them practical politics for the time being.

I should like to express my appreciation of the work of our architects and quantity surveyors, who have really made the job. The building of pithead baths was very difficult indeed when we started. At that time there was very little desire for pithead baths. Some of the miners' leaders were far-sighted enough to know that it was the right thing for the men, and that the time would soon come when baths would be wanted by everyone, but in 1927, 1928 and 1929 it was very difficult to get the men to agree to have pithead baths, and it was only the admirable work of the architects in providing installations which were the sort of thing that the miners wanted that made the change. The architects saw that the pithead baths which they built were of a type which the miners liked, and they arranged them so that they could be easily maintained and were cheap to run, because the workmen have to provide for the operating costs themselves, paying as a rule 6d. or less a week each for these baths. It is only what the architects have done in that way, by providing attractive baths which can be run economically, which has made our baths programme the success which it has been.

(The vote of thanks was carried unanimously, with acclamation.)

Mr. J. H. FORSHAW (*in reply*) : I think it is time that we went home, but I should like to thank Sir Frederick Sykes for the kind way in which he proposed the vote of thanks, and Mr. Fletcher for seconding it. I think that Mr. Fletcher's point about welfare was very adequately answered by Mr. Lawther, and Mr. Ashley's point has been dealt with by Mr. Stedman, so that all I have to do is to thank you all very much.

An outline map showing the distribution of coalfields in Great Britain. The architect's office is organised in two main groups north and south. A quantity surveyors section is under Mr. H. J. Rayner, Chief Quantity Surveyor.

*Architects.* Mr. Kemp, Deputy Chief Architect.

*North Group.* Mr. Dempster with Mr. Frizzell, Mr. Jack, Mr. Parry, Mr. H. Smith.

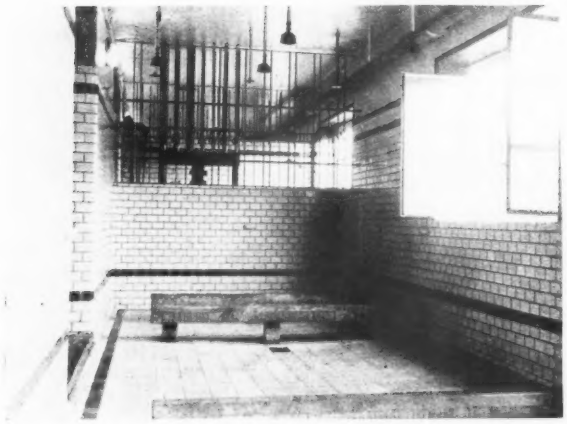
*South Group.* Mr. Saise with Mr. Traylor, Mr. Woodland, Mr. Bourne, Mr. Dudding.

Recreational Layouts. Capt. J. D. O' Kelly.

Engineer. Mr. A. M. Turner.

# ILLUSTRATIONS OF PITHEAD BATHS

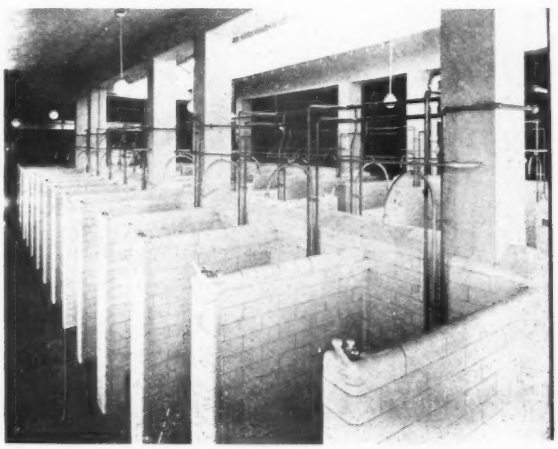
## SELECTED FROM MR. FORSHAW'S SLIDES

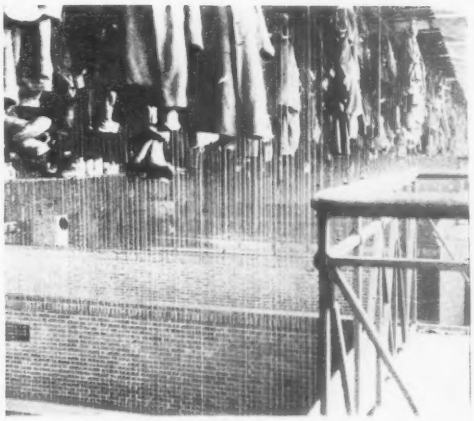


A German bath at the Gottessegen Pit, Westphalia, opened about 1927. A corner of the common bathroom with a battery of shower roses overhead. This method leads to waste of water and does not permit individual control of temperature. Footrests are provided on the floor at intervals and soap trays are built into the tiled walls

A Dutch bath at the Moritz Pit opened in 1934. In these Dutch baths there is no separation of pit and clean clothes and drying is by hoisting. The baths in Belgium and Holland are the best on the Continent, but recently the adoption of the English system of separation in Germany is bringing improvement there

The bathroom in a Scottish scheme showing the cubicles. A special end brick shaped like a camel's foot forms a strong division between cubicles. Special fittings to take the miner's shirt and towel are provided, and each cubicle is fitted with a mixing valve, because the British miner is conservative, and likes to fix the temperature of his bath. A sprayer fitting is found to be more economical than the rose fitting, and six gallons are allowed for bathing, four hot and two cold. A small mirror is provided in each cubicle to see that eyes are clean





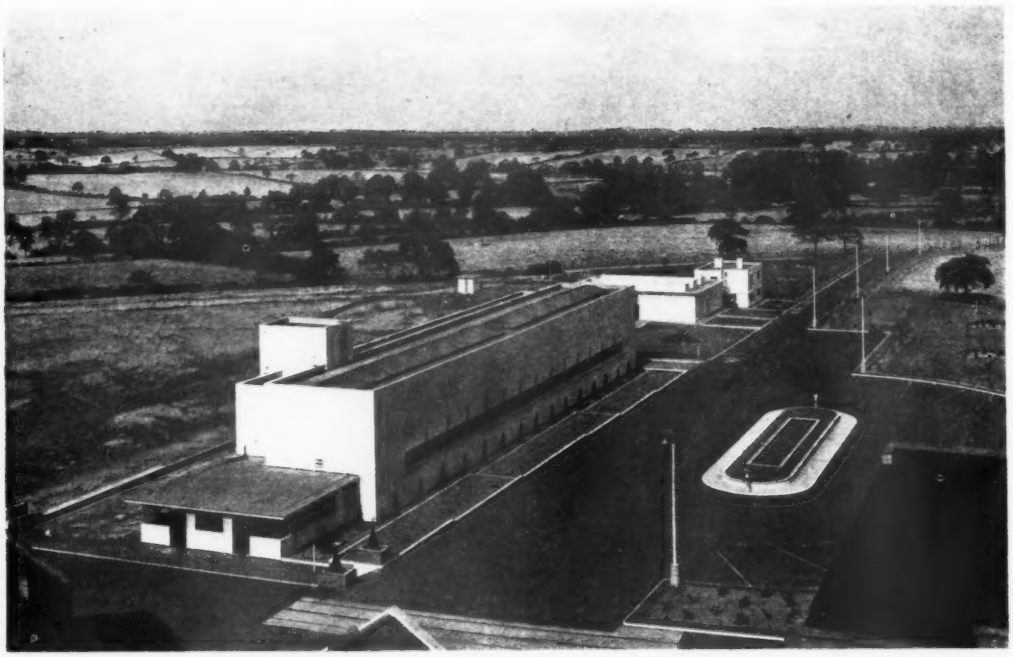
## LOCKERS AND CLOTHES DRYING

The clean locker room in a typical bath at Fleet Colliery, Lothians. The corridor goes the whole length of the room, and there are side corridors at right angles between the nests of lockers. The hot air for drying the clothes is driven through the duct overhead and brought by feeders into each double tier of lockers. The shorter men are given the lower lockers, and the taller men the top ones. A man can pull himself up by a rail to put away his clothes properly in the upper tier of lockers. Each miner has a key to his own locker. The boots are kept on two racks underneath the seat, and there is a small mirror to every group of six lockers. The lockers are built up on long rods passing through the full length of the nests. This provides a rigid structure simply assembled. The photograph top right shows the German method of clothes drying by hoisting; clean and pit clothes hang together. The system is very unsatisfactory

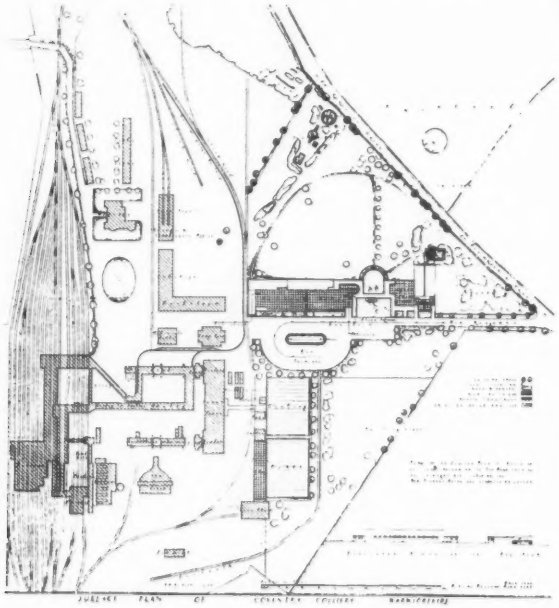
The bottom picture shows the old-fashioned domestic clothes drying which the baths are now superseding. It shows also the "daily" spring-clean which necessitates beating and hanging the kitchen carpet

# COVENTRY COLLIERY, WARWICK

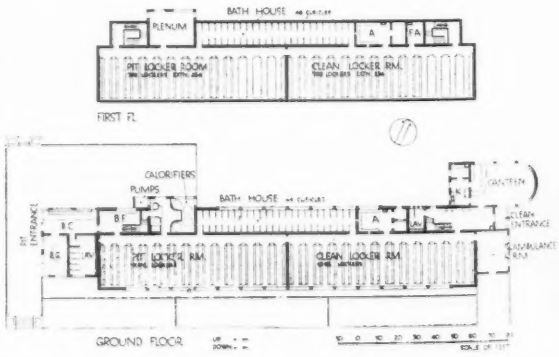
By W. A. WOODLAND (L.)



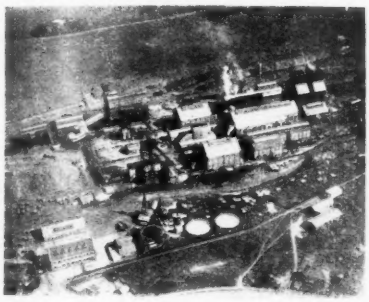
It is a typical piece of English landscape, rather flat but well-wooded and very delightful. The colliery was started just before the war, and ten years ago was taken over by the Warwickshire Coal Company, which has been most careful in all its developments. Although the colliery plan is probably not as satisfactory as it might have been, there is some order about it. The bath was opened in 1935. The colliery entrance, originally at the top left on plan, was diverted so that all the miners should come by way of the country road on the right direct to the baths "clean" entrance. The company laid and planted the entrance avenue and provided the bus park

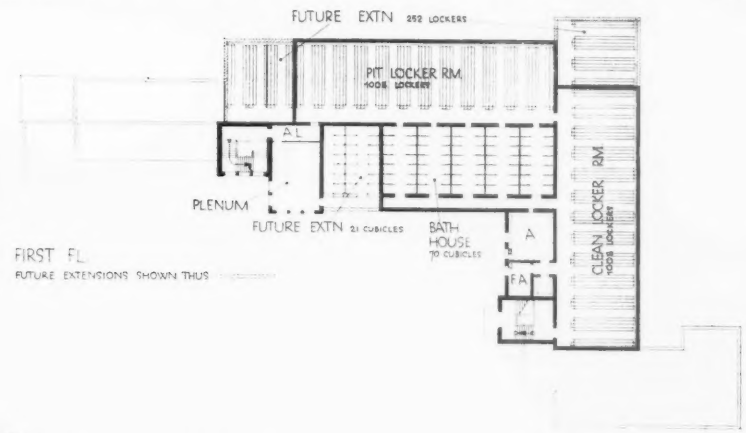


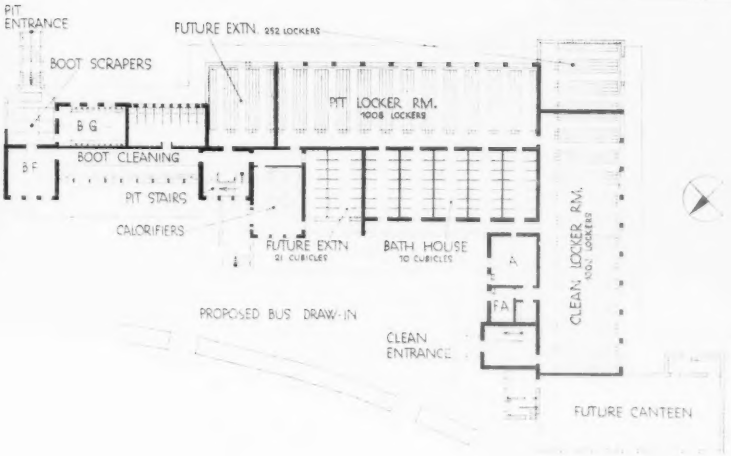
COVENTRY COLLIERY
PITHEAD BATHS



Kent countryside and a Kent mine



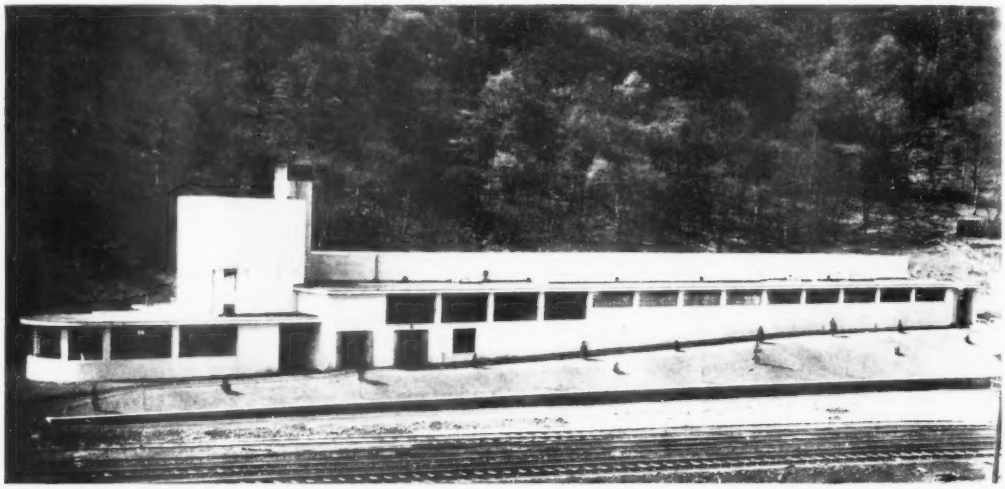


## Betteshanger Colliery, Kent

*By C. G. Kemp [A.], 1934*

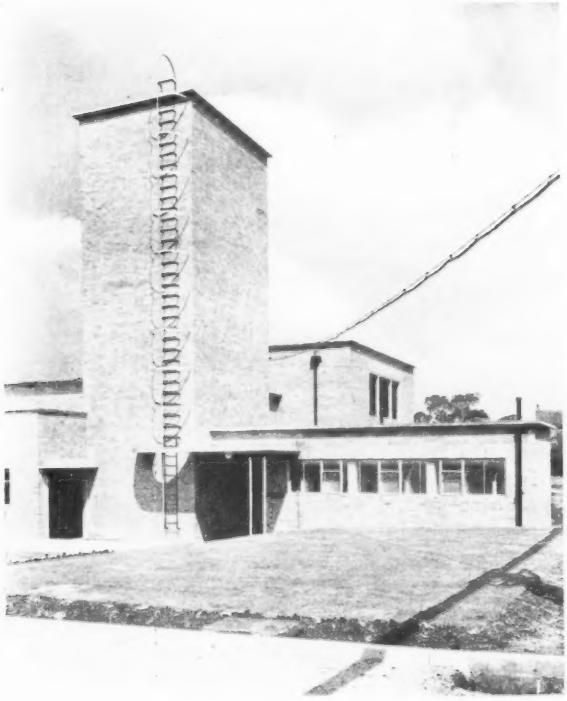
The baths are on the open land in the foreground of the air view. The extensions shown on the plan were built at the same time as the main parts of the scheme



## HAFODYRYNYS COLLIERY, MONMOUTHSHIRE

*By W. M. TRAYLOR L. 1936*

Here, as elsewhere, special care was taken to put up a building suited to the site, in this case a long narrow strip compressed in the valley. Most Welsh valleys are stripped of their trees; the preservation of this view was considered important



## BENTINCK COLLIERY, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

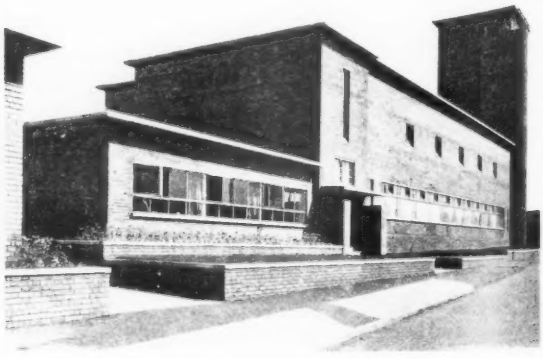
*By J. A. SAISE A. 1936*

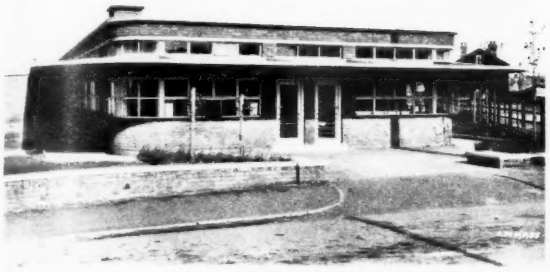
A well-kept scheme: the simple design and garden layout with turf and flowers make it attractive. A view of the pit entrance

## MANVERS MAIN COLLIERY, SOUTH YORKS

*By C. G. KEMP [A.] 1937*

An important road frontage improvement. The clean entrance





**HADFIELD MAIN COLLIERY, FIRST AID ROOM**

A statutory first aid room and the welfare fund first aid provision combined. The committee allows 100 sq. ft., a small but adequate space for treatment of scratches and cuts. An example of co-operation between the colliery company and the committee

**WOMEN'S REST ROOM, CHISNALL HALL, LANCS., 1934**

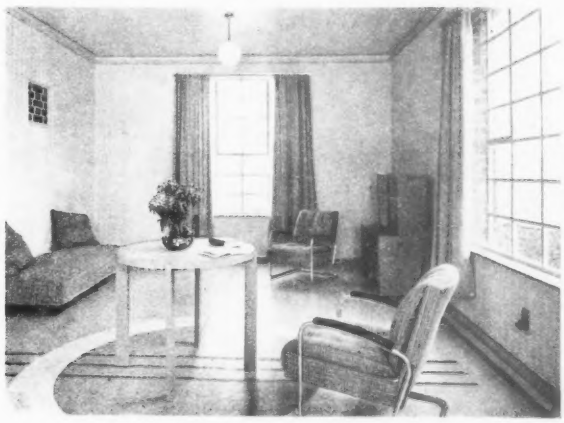
Modified accommodation is provided where women are still employed on coal grading. The rest room is adjacent to the canteen

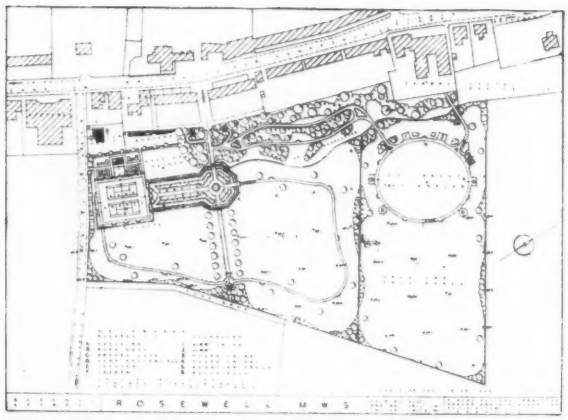
**LAMP ROOM, MANVERS MAIN, SOUTH YORKS, 1937.**

An example of work done by the committee's architects for a company inspired to make improvements of their own within a comprehensive scheme. The room is by the colliery gate

**CANTEEN AT CARDOWAN BATHS, LANARKSHIRE, 1935**

A typical arrangement, showing equipment and furnishings. The long cill provides extra table space. The colouring is bright

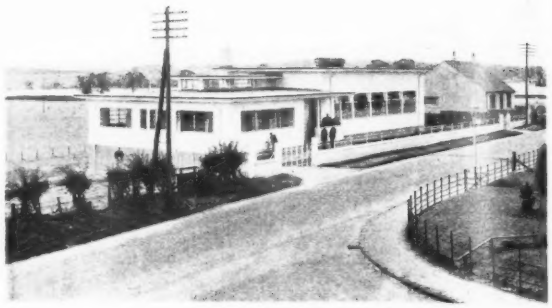





## ROSEWELL RECREATION PARK, LOTHIANS, FIFE

*By J. A. DEMPSTER [F.] and J. D. O'KELLY*

The scheme covers an area of 13 acres. An existing plantation is incorporated in the layout, which includes a children's playground, tennis courts, putting course, and space for junior football pitches



*Above:* **WINDYGATES HALL AND INSTITUTE**

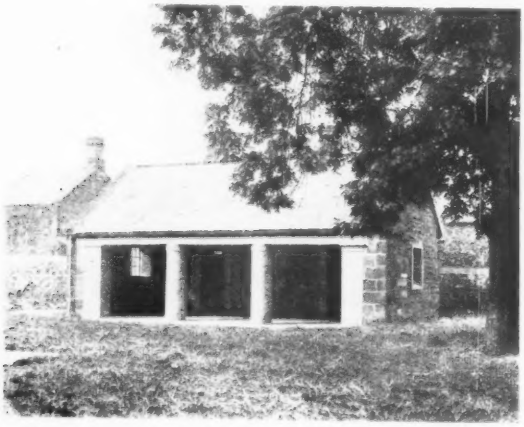
*By J. A. DEMPSTER [F.]*

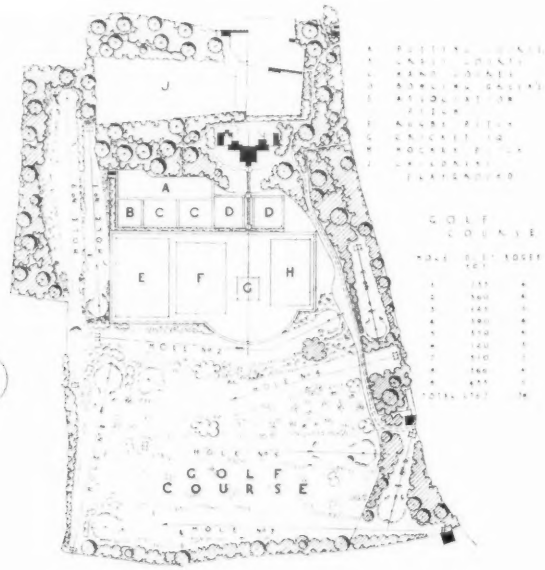
A hall with stage and dressing rooms, billiards and games rooms, kitchen and lavatories. Playing fields are behind the building

## BACKWORTH HALL PARK, NORTHUMBERLAND

*To right:* The layout of the park at Backworth Hall, Northumberland. The Hall is now a welfare and recreation institute, the grounds a recreation park of nearly 90 acres. Architect for additions and alterations: F. G. Frizzell [L.]: Recreational layout: J. D. O'Kelly

*Below:* An outbuilding converted for use as children's shelter






*Scale of reproduction approx. 1 $\frac{3}{16}$ ins. equals 1,000 ft.*

# Extracts from The President's Speech at the Dinner of the West Yorkshire Society of Architects at Leeds on 25 February*

In a published comment upon the speeches at our dinner in London this year I read with satisfaction that the President dexterously hoisted "the particular set of flags which the Institute is bent on flying at the moment." I liked that comment for three reasons. First, of course, it is flattering to be called dexterous. Secondly, I love to think of obligatory topics as flags, gay, fluttering flags; and not as dull, inert planks from a platform, used to crush the always feeble resistance of an after-dinner audience to after-dinner speaking. Thirdly, because my flags were those "which the Institute is bent on flying," which showed that on that occasion I knew my place as President and did not indulge too obviously in any flag flying of my own. . . .

Of course, the first subject in all our minds is the Registration Bill, whose favourable prospects must not tempt us to relax the support that will be continuously needed up to the moment when the Bill becomes law. "When," I say, not "if and when"—partly because I reverence the English language, but chiefly because, although the "if" may jump into our minds during the bad hours of the night, I think we ought to banish it from our thoughts during the daytime. Very strange things are done and left undone by those who make our laws, but the failure to make this little one would be an irrationality I hope we may regard as nearly impossible. The public is naturally apt to think that every man who puts the word *architect* on his door-plate and notepaper has some professional qualification, and the Bill would do nothing more than ensure that this was the fact. Those who say that the public cares nothing for qualification could obviously not object to a Bill requiring that the word *unqualified* be professionally displayed by all of whom it was true, and yet I doubt whether such a Bill would be popular universally. If, in actuality, the public *does* value qualification, it seems hardly fair dealing to let them assume it where it does not exist.

By "qualification" I mean, of course, education that will pass the test of an examination conforming to the highest standard. Examinations are very properly decried as a means of education, just as the clinical thermometer should be disparaged as a means of bringing down a man's temperature, but they do enable you to discriminate approximately between those who ought to be trustworthy and those who cannot be so. They are, moreover, a better guide now than they used to be, owing to the bad system of cramming for them during pupilage having given way to the school course that takes them in its stride. If there were no other superiority in the school over the pupilage system it would still be completely justified by the power it gives of taking a student across his fences at a nice steady pace with the minimum need of whip or spur.

The reputation of the architectural school at Leeds and its many successes are well-known, and—much as I love talking schoolmaster's shop—I feel that I ought to do no more to-night than offer that school my congratulations. As director of a school myself, however, I should like to give here what I think is the answer to a criticism sometimes levelled at all of them. This criticism is that they seldom turn out assistants who can pull their weight immediately they get into an architect's office. The answer is that an architectural school exists not for making assistants but for making architects, and that the one is not the invariable chrysalis of the other. The school aims at teaching a student what he cannot learn anywhere else and often finds its course too short to teach him enough of that. The architect's office is at first more the student's "finishing school" that his place of wage-earning labour. We must not expect to get from a school the ideal assistant ready-made, but rather must take a hand in his making. . .

Public opinion, however, has great need of more light still. It still has to be prodded and poked by councils and societies, and by letters to the newspapers, before it can secure that the simplest improvement be made or the most flagrant vandalism frustrated. The public needs to learn to love us more (architects, I mean), to study to please us, and to hang on our lightest words. Instead of which it comes to us a little grudgingly; having long thought it could do quite well without us and doubting still whether we can get it out of the mess into which it has got itself. . .

Leeds is to me no strange city, nor only the scene of memorable musical festivals, but a treasury of interest. . . . Now I do not say that your treasury is well arranged, nor that it has been planned with any wiser forethought than has been displayed in our other great industrial cities. I do say, however, that the treasure itself is valuable and should never be unnecessarily bartered away. In London it seems to be considered almost as virtuous to destroy a Victorian building as it is to preserve a Georgian one and you see the masterpieces of our fathers being lightheartedly smashed while our great-grandfathers nastiest little by-blows are wrapped in cotton-wool. I feel sure that you will be wiser in Leeds, and will preserve and destroy according to merit and not to antiquity.

*The President was prevented by ill-health from attending and this speech was read by Sir Ian MacAlister.

*The office building is the first part to be built of a long block*

# RESEARCH LABORATORIES, MANCHESTER

*Fig. 1.—The site at present*

## Building at Blackley for Imperial Chemical Industries Dyestuffs Group

*Architect*: *SERGE CHERMAYEFF* [*F.*]

This new building expresses a revolution in the technique of laboratory planning and equipment. It has followed from a thorough examination by the architect and his clients of several newer existing laboratories. They concluded that the planning systems and design ideas they studied in those laboratories were almost without exception out of date, inefficient and suffering from many avoidable detail defects. It will be clear that this building is a new point of departure in its particular type, from which all new large scale laboratory buildings will have to proceed.

### OLD METHODS

Laboratories have been hitherto, with few exceptions, both in industry and in technical and scientific institutions, no more than merely new buildings which, while often employing new methods in building technique, perpetuated from the chemist's point of view a great many anachronisms. These included inadequacies of daylighting and of artificial illumination, insufficient

ventilation and inflexible and inaccessible services. The last are to-day becoming increasingly complex to meet the requirements of modern research work.

Many existing laboratories, particularly in the dyestuffs industry, are single-floor buildings with top lighting from north-light roofs. This was found in most instances to give inadequate lighting as compared with the new laboratories, without heavy maintenance charges to keep the roof glass clean internally and externally. A large interior cubic content usually compensated the inadequacies of natural ventilation by draught. The top lighting gave a depressing atmosphere in which to work. The buildings were wasteful of site area and expensive to build. In addition many other defective details of planning were found which will be noted from the description of their avoidance in the new building at Blackley.

## THE SITE

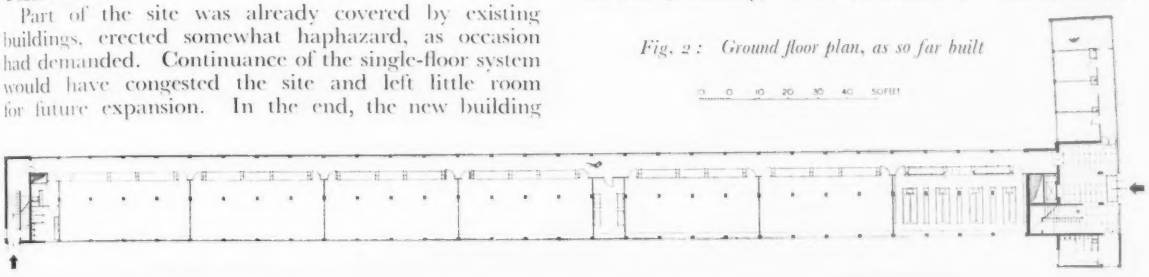
Part of the site was already covered by existing buildings, erected somewhat haphazard, as occasion had demanded. Continuance of the single-floor system would have congested the site and left little room for future expansion. In the end, the new building was made part of a complete scheme of possible future rebuilding. The present and future site plans are shown in Figs. 1 and 3. The road along the side of the site is to be widened into a main by-pass by the local authority and will reorient the whole scheme, giving it a new entrance.

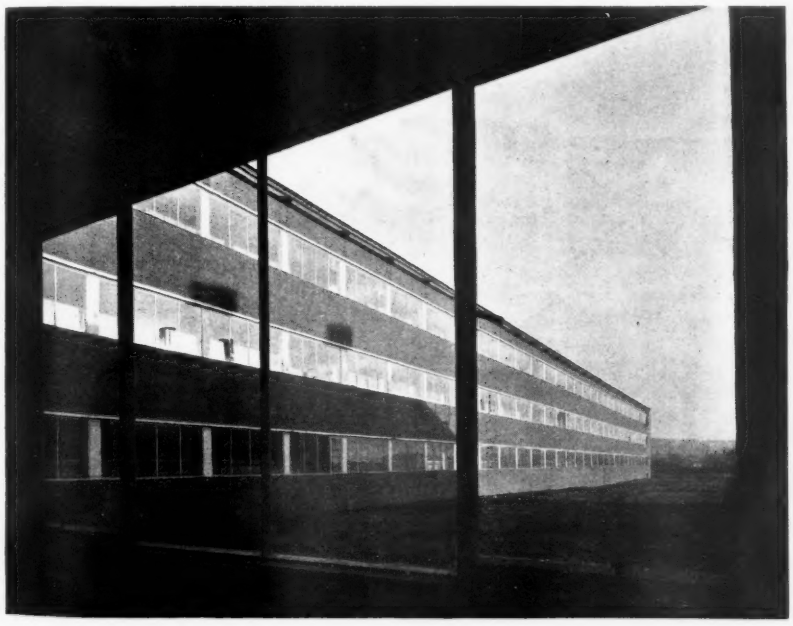
## THE PLAN

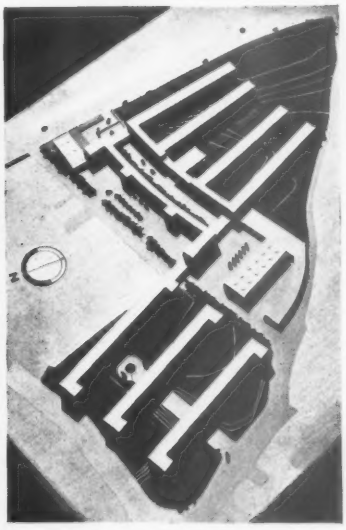
The decision to use east and west lighting made a multi-storey building possible, thereby solving the site difficulty. It also opened up the site, giving room for lawns and planting between the blocks. The whole group will consequently gain enormously in appearance. The psychological benefits to the chemists and other workers, resulting both from the attractive buildings and from the more agreeable working conditions, are of no small importance.

A second decision, made on the suggestion of the architect, namely, to air-condition the whole of the

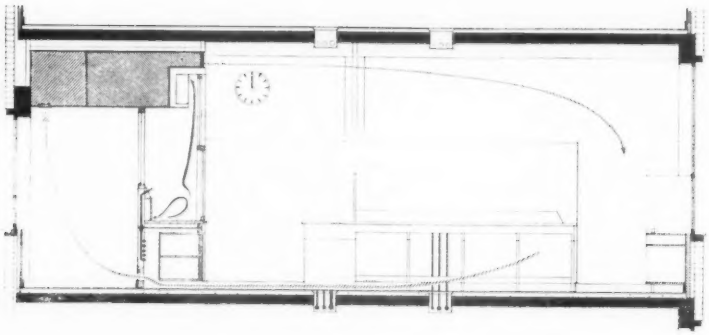
*Fig. 2: Ground floor plan, as so far built*



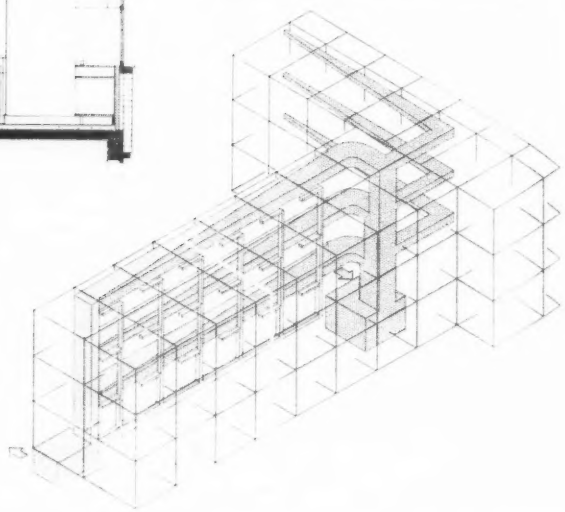





*Above, Fig. 3: Model of the proposed re-planning. Left: The laboratory block seen through a window of the office block*



*Left, Fig. 4: Section through typical laboratory and corridor, showing the operation of the air-conditioning and the separate exhausts in the fume cupboards for light and heavy gases. Below, Fig. 5: Skeleton diagram of the air-conditioning trunking*



interior brought about an economical reduction in building cube. An extract system for the fume cupboards was in any case necessary; but the eleven changes of air per hour in the laboratories themselves, which is given by the air-conditioning plant, has entirely abolished the hitherto typical hot and fume-laden atmosphere. Moreover, the notorious Manchester atmosphere of fog and soot is excluded from the building, with great benefit in cleanliness.

The building as so far erected consists of a long laboratory structure of three floors, with the first portion of an office block forming a Tee at the end. The windows of the offices face south, over future gardens.

The section of a typical laboratory (Fig. 4) explains both the daylighting and the air-conditioning. A row of double-glazed fume cupboards separates the corridor and laboratory. The main window of the laboratory faces east and obtains good light, which is almost always free from the glare and heat of direct sunlight. The corridor void acts as an insulator for the afternoon heat of the sun, the light from which is filtered and diffused by the glazing ("Georgian wired cast") of the fume cupboards. The whole interior, including that of the fume cupboards, is abundantly lit by daylight.

There are two ventilation systems, one for the laboratories and offices and the other for the fume cupboards. A duct in the corridor head delivers conditioned air at ceiling level in the laboratory. The air passes out through the base of the range of fume cupboards and is extracted at ceiling level in the corridor. The fume cupboards have high and low level extracts for light and heavy gases respectively. The layout of the ventilation trunking is shown in the skeleton diagram (Fig. 5). The high rate of air change has reduced condensation—a trouble common in laboratories—to a minimum. The opening sections of the laboratory windows are for emergency use only and are normally shut, cleaning of the west and east side being from travelling cradles. The office windows are cleaned from inside.

The plan of a typical laboratory (Fig. 6) shows the way in which the problem of accommodating a variety of services, which must be accessible along their whole lengths, has been met. Two continuous floor ducts running the length of the building deliver to the benches (see also the section, Fig. 4). These are covered with heavy covers of a special type. Vertical shafts deliver to the fume cupboards, the horizontal distribution along the backs being accessible from the corridor by means of removable panels of hard wallboard (see view on page 445). The vertical shafts also contain the R.W.P.s. A crawling way running the entire length of the basement distributes the services to the shafts. This layout of the services enables repairs or additions to be made without disturbing the fabric of the structure or equipment.

The benches are arranged on a unit spacing, as is indeed the whole laboratory building. The shelf storage is placed between benches, partly to give a measure of seclusion and partly to avoid men working back to back, which is liable to cause collisions which may be dangerous when fragile apparatus containing acids is in use, and partly to avoid dark and inconvenient storage.

The laboratories are divided by light studded partitioning running along the tops of the storage units. These can be moved bodily to another stanchion line

as required. Continuous desk space is provided under the windows, a central portion being screened off for balance work.

A separate balance room for delicate weighing operations is provided on each floor. Complete insulation from vibration in this room has been obtained by placing the instruments on tables detached from the walls and consisting of heavy slate tops on heavy precast concrete stands, insulated by two separate layers of ½-in. lead.

The subdivision of the laboratory into semi-private sections is desirable for a reason which has strongly influenced the whole scheme. The majority of the chemists are highly paid technical experts. Such men expect to be allowed to work in seclusion and in an equipped space which they can regard as their own. A large open laboratory would entirely prevent this. Further, the attention of the chemist is not distracted by happenings on other benches.

## THE STRUCTURE

This consists of a reinforced concrete frame and floors, the panels of the latter spanning between the rows of columns so that the whole floor-depth is available for the horizontal service ducts (See also the section, Fig. 4). These are formed in galvanised and painted sheet steel. The beams spanning the building are pierced through their neutral axes for the service pipes to pass through. There are no longitudinal beams, except in the outer walls. The construction of the office block is a single span with cantilevered corridor.

The planning arrangement of the laboratories has allowed a central line of stanchions, giving two equal spans, to be used, thus giving a lesser beam depth than a single span would have done. The whole building is divided into three complete units separated entirely by expansion joints. These are caulked between vertical surfaces with bitumen and faced with copper strip bent to a double U-shape. The floor surfaces (¾-in. cork tiles) are divided by a rubber strip set in mastic. The horizontal joints are filled with strips of mastic paper (Fig. 8). As much as 1½ ins. total movement has been measured in the building without cracking.

The walls are faced with a 4½-in. brick outer skin, carried at the different levels on the reinforced concrete beams forming both ties and continuous window heads (see Fig. 9). The internal skin is of anhydrite

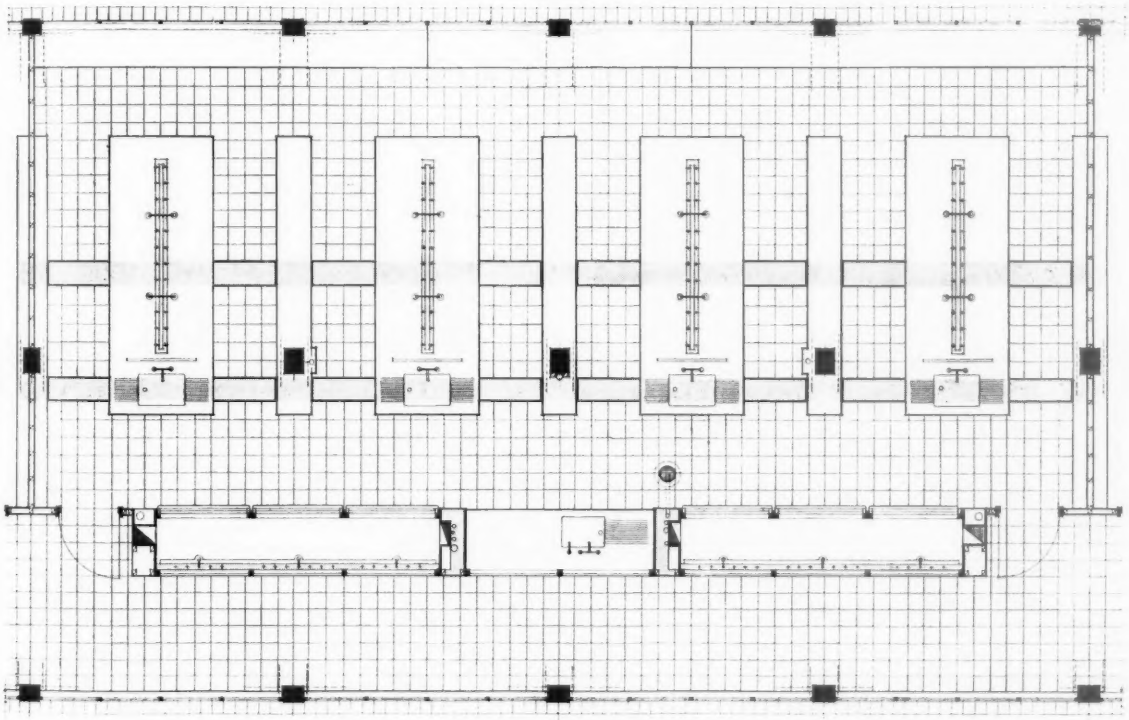


*Fig. 6: Plan of a typical laboratory. The tinted portions show the vertical and horizontal runs of the services. The benches are separated by high storage units and the laboratories by light partitioning resting on the storage unit*

*Left : The desks under the windows in a laboratory. Right : The end of a laboratory*

*Key to Axonometric :*

1. *Extract.*
2. *Fresh air.*
3. *Light gas extract.*
4. *Fume cupboard services : Electricity, gas, steam, compressed air, vacuum and water.*
5. *Heavy gas extract.*
6. *Vertical service ducts.*
7. *Fume cupboard service controls.*
8. *Storage.*
9. *Bench services : Sink wastes, water and steam.*
10. *Bench services : Electric, gas and vacuum.*
11. *Safety shower.*
12. *Storage, first aid and telephone.*
13. *Balance table.*
14. *Typical bench.*
15. *Chemist's desk.*
16. *High and low temperature drying ovens.*

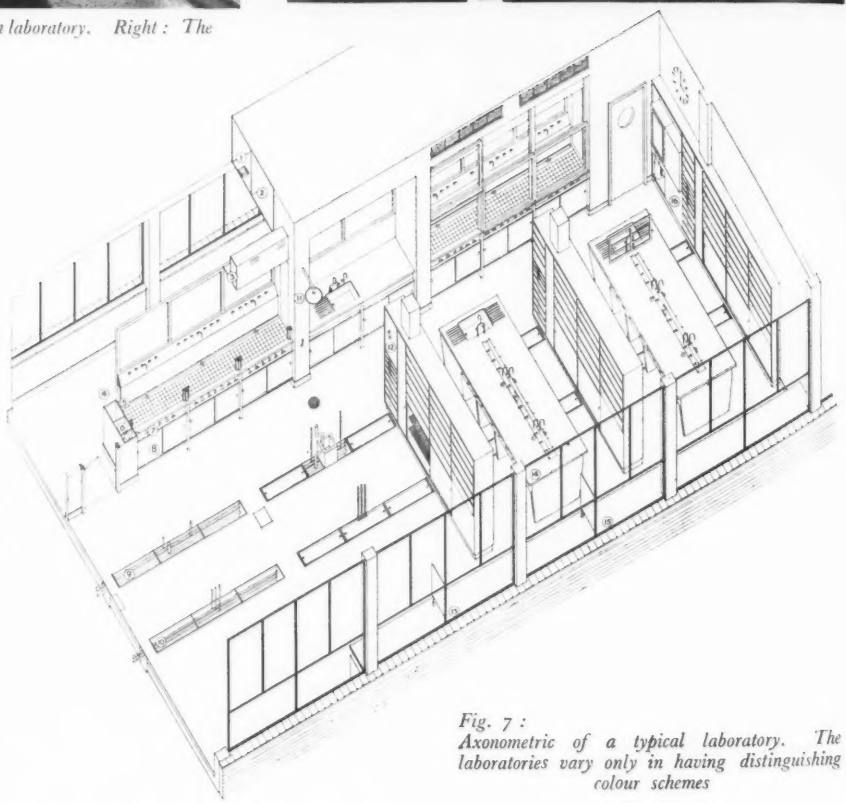
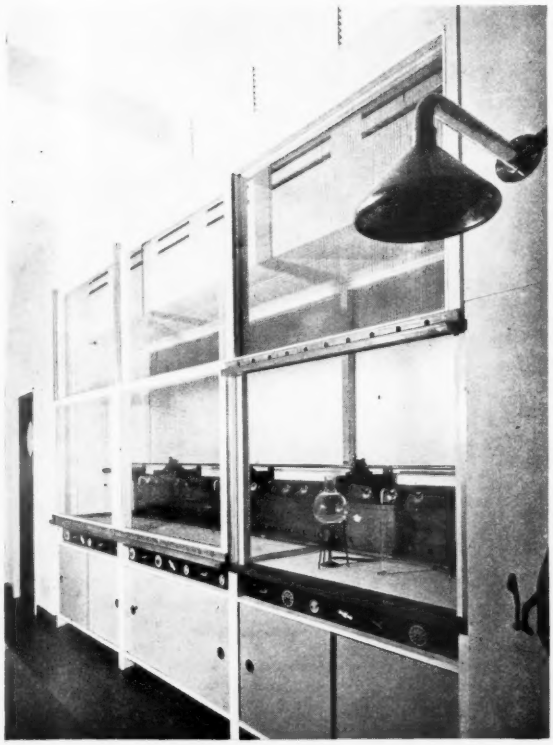
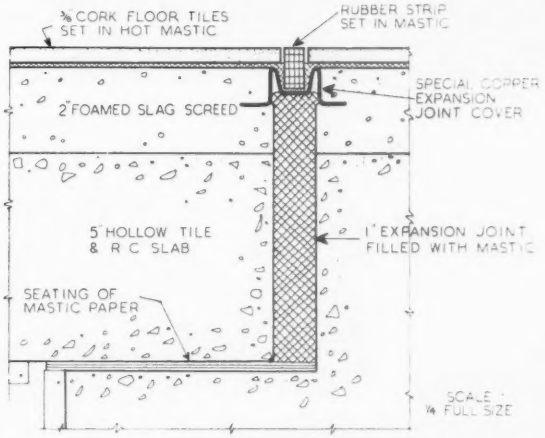
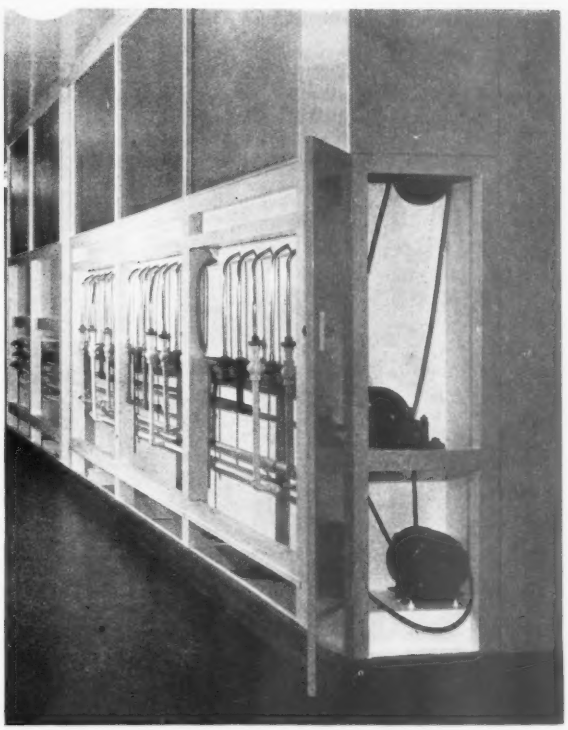


*Fig. 7 : Axonometric of a typical laboratory. The laboratories vary only in having distinguishing colour schemes*




⅜ CORK FLOOR TILES SET IN HOT MASTIC
RUBBER STRIP SET IN MASTIC
SPECIAL COPPER EXPANSION JOINT COVER
2" FOAMED SLAG SCREED
5" HOLLOW TILE & R C SLAB
1" EXPANSION JOINT FILLED WITH MASTIC
SEATING OF MASTIC PAPER
SCALE ¼ FULL SIZE

*Left: A fume cupboard. All taps are at the front, each service having a different shape and colour. Above, Fig. 8: Detail of a structural expansion joint. Below: The corridor side of a fume cupboard showing access panels removed. The motors are for actuating stirring apparatus*

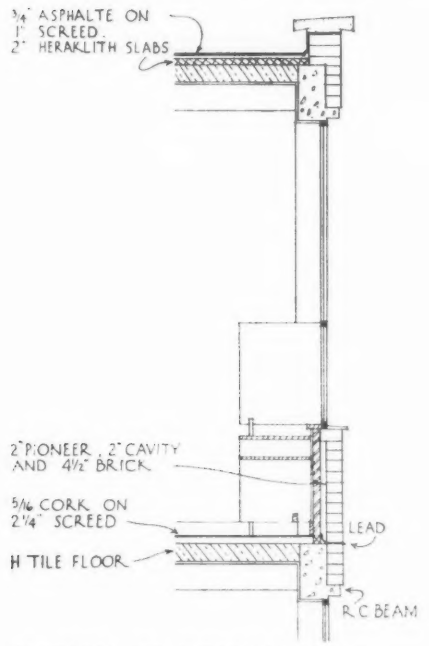


("Pioneer") blocks, except where the ducts abut against the outer wall where they are formed of wood-wool compound ("Heraklith") to give increased insulation. The structural filling was, therefore, almost entirely a dry process, which tended to reduce the risk of shrinkage cracking.

## EQUIPMENT AND FINISHES

The unit benches (see photograph on page 444) are open structures with teak tops. Even the rubbish bins are suspended clear of the floor; no materials or loose equipment are stored beneath the benches. This avoids the usual dark and dirty corners, does away with the necessity for stooping on the part of the chemist, renders the services accessible, and leaves a clear floor on which "spills" can be quickly mopped up. All material is stored in the painted wooden shelving between the benches, and apparatus in the sliding-fronted cupboards beneath the fume cupboards, which includes a low-temperature drying cupboard for vessels.

The taps and other controls of the services to the fume cupboards are at the front. This avoids the necessity for chemists to lean over fragile "fit-ups" to get at the taps. These are placed in a recessed row so that clothing will not catch them. The taps of each




SECTION OF EXTERNAL WALL
SCALE ¼" TO 1'0".

*Above, Fig. 9: Section illustrating the construction, which is a reinforced concrete frame and hollow-tile floors. The walls are brick outer skin and plaster slab inner skin. Below: One of the balance rooms showing the special design of vibration-proof table*

separate service are a distinct colour and shape so that they are easily distinguishable, even in the dark. The colour scheme of the taps is the same as that used for distinguishing the service pipes. The taps at the benches are similarly recessed beneath the projecting front edges. They operate, as do those of the fume cupboards, by means of long rods running across to the valves at the back. The top of the central dash-board unit in the centre of the bench is removable.

In the centre of each laboratory group is a shower, operated by a quickly-operated lever handle, so that a man splashed with acid can be immediately placed beneath it. A first-aid cabinet is also provided in each group. The laboratory doors are hung to open outwards in case of fire, and there is a door at either end of each group. When fully open they are within the fume cupboard width, leaving the corridor free. There is a glazed panel in each to avoid collisions—a detail point of some importance where men may be carrying fragile apparatus or dangerous chemicals.

Wherever paint has been used it is of a special acid and steam-resisting type. The usual drab colouring of the industrial building has been avoided by the use of bright and cheerful colours, against a general background of broken white. Each floor is identifiable by a different range of colour of the entrances to the laboratories and the laboratories themselves are in variations of tone of the individual colour.

## COSTS

The cost per cubic foot including all fittings and some of the apparatus was 1s. 11½d. Of that cost the air-conditioning plant, ducting and plenum chambers represented 2½d.

## CONSULTANTS

Collaborating with the architect were: Mr. J. McKillop, M.I.Chem.E., Chief Engineer, Dyestuffs Group; Mr. C. Sweett, Quantity Surveyor; Messrs. Samuely & Hamann, Structural Engineers.

The General Contractors were The Russell Building and Contracting Co., Ltd., Manchester.

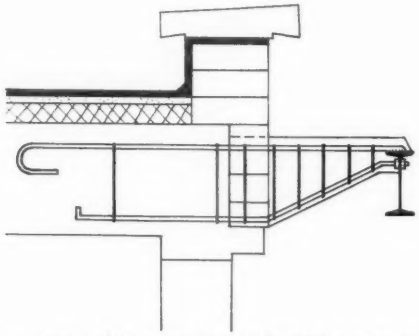


*Fig. 10: Detail of the suspension rail for window-cleaning cradles*

Cement and Concrete Association

# TRUNK ROADS

REPORT OF THE INFORMAL GENERAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 16 FEBRUARY

PROFESSOR W. G. HOLFORD IN THE CHAIR

Everything seemed set at the informal meeting on Wednesday, 16 February for one of the best possible discussions. A group of most distinguished visitor speakers had been invited, and furthermore had come. A tolerably good audience was present, and the subject was one which provided openings for really lively debate.

It is often possible to say why meetings are successful, but seldom possible to say why meetings fail.

Nevertheless, we can say how this one failed: it failed simply because time ran out before any discussion had started, and when discussion did start at the time when the meeting should have been closing, one speaker monopolised the few minutes left. None of these difficulties would have arisen if the meeting had begun punctually, and if all speakers had kept closely to their allotted time and had confined their remarks closely to their own book.

SIR CHARLES BRESSEY, Engineer-in-charge of the Survey of Highway Development in Greater London, opened. He confessed that he did not know why architects should promote this discussion, since nothing was less welcome on trunk roads than buildings: but the architects' point of view he optimistically suggested would come out in discussion.

Road policy was continually modified by three things: Our respect for private enterprise, our "almost idolatorous" respect for private property and our reliance on local autonomy. Historically "local" roads, and almost all our roads were local roads, seemed primarily intended to keep through traffic away. The system of absolute local autonomy fell into disrepute about 1909, when the Roads Development Board was set up; but the 1909 Act did nothing. It was not until after the war when the Ministry of Transport was formed, and roads classified, that things really began to move; during the past few years there had been tremendous progress, visible particularly in the passing of the Ribbon Development Act and the Trunk Roads Act. Under the latter about 4,500 miles of roads were in direct charge of the Ministry.

Sir Charles contrasted our possible solution here with the solution provided by the German *autobahnen*, which, he pointed out, made no provision for pedestrians

or cyclists. Trunk roads needed to be differentiated completely from building-lined roads. There should or could be parallel roads a mile or so distant from the trunk roads passing through villages and towns. As an early example of this Sir Charles described the 16 miles of Ermine Street, north of Lincoln. There must be a barrier of undeveloped land between trunk roads and towns. The architects' contribution could be in designing roadside service stations and in giving architectural form to the bridges, tunnels and fly-overs, etc., of the crossings. He pleaded for an extension of the usual narrow idea of amenity, which seemed to think only hedged roads attractive, to include a sense of the value of view.

In conclusion Sir Charles said that though the Trunk Road Act only allowed the Minister to build new roads as exceptions, he thought in time the chief emphasis would shift to new roads.

Sir Charles was followed by Mr. E. H. FRYER, Deputy Secretary of the Architectural Association; he, like Sir Charles, kept closely to time and to the point. He thought one of the chief advantages of the Trunk Roads Act was that it enabled the Minister to initiate, hitherto he had had to wait on the initiative of numberless local authorities. But the Act seemed to have three main faults:—

(1) The Minister was under no *obligation* to act: an indolent minister would do nothing. His powers should be forfeited if not used within a specified time.

(2) The L.C.C. and County Boroughs were excluded from the Act. The Ministry would not bear full cost where trunk roads ran within county borough boundaries. This gave chances for delays and inconsistent policies.

(3) In all respects the choice of roads scheduled as being trunk roads was not good. He cited the alternative routes to the West of England and suggested that the wrong one had been chosen. But the Minister had given hope that amendments of detail would be possible.

Few things were said during the evening more interesting to the architects present than Mr. Fryer's opinions on bridges. Bridges which self consciously reared up pylons and seemed to strive to make themselves grand and forbidding (he cited examples), he considered barbarous, and indeed just bad as bridges. The proper bridge should invite one over by presenting no visible obstruction. It should give an obvious welcome not only to passage but to pause. The river sides by bridge heads were among the best natural recreation sites and could and should be developed as such.

Mr. Fryer next tackled the subject of road widths and reservations. He wanted at least 300 ft. reserved on each side from the centre. In conclusion, he suggested that we should not waste time trying to decide whether new roads should be motor only or multi-vehicular. That would decide itself. We had to settle the road lines to provide generously for width and let the use question decide itself in relation to the actual needs when and where the roads were built.

Mr. Fryer's was a speech which interested the audience. It was crammed full of what in another connotation is called "road sense," was direct and helpful.

Mr. G. H. JACK, Panels Secretary, C.P.R.E. and recently Hon. Secretary of the Trunk Roads Joint Committee, who followed, defended architects as the amenity pundits against some unknown enemy. He quoted Vitruvius to show what broad-minded fellows we were (in the first century A.D.), and pleaded for the use of natural, on the site, materials; in conclusion he quoted at length from a report on *autobahnen* to show that the Germans had had regard for amenity in planning those roads.

Mr. A. T. V. ROBINSON, of the Ministry of Transport, started cautiously by showing what a complex problem his Ministry had to deal with. Each man looked at roads from his own point of view and was intolerant of other interests and of the Ministry that had to relate them all.

The internal combustion engine was hero and villain. The grand accident-saving expedients of tunnels, clover-leaf crossings and fly-overs were effective perhaps but expensive. All the engineer could hope to do was to provide facilities for road users that would not lead them into temptation.

Whitehall could not be an arbiter of taste and could not control road-side building design. This was the architects' job. Always the bogy of compensation prevented more being done to preserve road-side land. Some said preserve 50 ft., some 500—why not 5,000?

Mr. Robinson spoke vigorously on the subject of *autobahnen*, and gave a warning against flying uncritically to grandiose schemes in the use of which there was apt to be little real freedom.

This concluded the speakers on the paper. Professor Holford, with an eye on the clock, said "five minutes for epigrams"; fortunately or unfortunately (it depends how you look at it), the speaker who rose knew so much, particularly about *autobahnen*, and spoke with such evident authority that fifteen minutes barely held him, and that was the end of a meeting of five speeches and no discussion. Some present felt a bit apologetic, perhaps, that our distinguished guests should, in return for their very real kindness in coming, have been given no chance of hearing a word from any junior member, nor have been given, from any source, a clear idea of what was in fact the architect's response to their ambitious works as road engineers and organisers of the country's road system.

# Book Reviews

## Six Books on Now and Then

### THE SPIRIT OF MODERN BUILDING*

This book has been widely acclaimed in the United States as the most concise and authoritative work yet written on the subject of contemporary architecture. It is, indeed, a distinguished production, of a comfortable size for handling, reasonably priced and well printed in a large legible type. The photographs are numerous and particularly well selected. There is also a bibliography and an index.

The author, more theoretician than builder, is German born, and has had a varied and interesting career. He was an associate editor of the *Frankfurter Zeitung* in its pre-Blood-and-Wotan days; he was once in charge of Government housing in Prussia; he was the first editor of *Die Form*. At present he is Lecturer on Regional Planning at Dartmouth.

He does not claim that this book is a history of modern architecture, though seldom has the familiar story been unfolded with such reasoned detachment and clarity. It is rather, in his own words, "an essay on the spirit of modern building, its origins, problems and forms." This is not an excuse for the sort of woolly-headed, tweed-knickerbockery theorising which is so often associated with books on the principles of design. The argument is brilliantly and compactly presented in an introductory chapter, which can be briefly, if rather crudely, summarised as follows:

Art falls into two main classifications: formative art and fine art. This dualism involves two different attitudes towards the cosmos. One sees reality "as it appears in its overflowing exuberance and variety." The best example of this attitude is that true natural product, a Gothic building. The other represents an attitude which, bewildered by reality, searches for a norm, an ultimate unchanging law which lies beneath, and which can be the starting point in creating forms. This is what Goethe calls fine art, and arises from an essentially "Classic" attitude.

Between these two poles of "Gothic" and "Classic" creative instinct swings. Epochs of civilisation are distinguished by whichever tendency is predominant. Great masterpieces are only produced at those rare moments in history when both opposing tendencies come to harmonious adjustment in a man or a people. Such integration, according to Dr. Behrendt, has only once been attained in the history of architecture, when the Greeks created the Doric Temple.

This critical conception is used as a basis throughout the book. The close coincidence between change in design forms and social and political forms in general is acutely emphasised in the chapters on the history of modern architecture, which form the first part of the book.

The Classical tradition reached its apotheosis in the creation of 18th-century Paris. To-day it survives only in the Ecole des Beaux Arts. The Classic plan became an art in itself. "The plan," said Le Gorbusier, "has become a piece of paper on which black marks for walls and lines for axes play at a sort of mosaic on a decorative panel making graphic representations of star patterns, creating an optical illusion. The most beautiful star becomes the Grand Prix de Rome." This is true enough, but as the author points out Le Corbusier himself has always been ready to make wild concessions in plan, at the cost of function, in favour of the exterior. His own plans, with their elaborate interplay of curves and lines, their considered placing of marks and stencilled figures, are not really very different from those of the academicians.

The great figures of the modern movement—Wagner, Hoffmann, Loos, Van de Velde, Oud, Van de Rohe of Europe, and Sullivan and Wright of America—are dispassionately examined and classified with unerring accuracy. The work of Le Corbusier receives perhaps the most brilliant and sound evaluation which has ever been made. The acknowledged inability of the modern school to produce monumental architecture is logically explained by the suggestion that the ideals and spirit of the age are not sufficiently clear-cut to be expressed in monumental form. Our time is a period of crisis, a borderline between two ages. It is not surprising, therefore, that modern architecture is still rather harsh and unformed, representing as it does the unsettled age in which it arises. Because, too, this crisis is world-wide, modern architecture is international and universal in character.

This dialectical conception is not only a critical yardstick by which the history and present state of architecture can be measured. It can also be used with confidence to predict its future development. Building is a social art, and the work of the architect is bounded by the social conditions of his time. Greatness is apparently denied to all art of our age. "The spirit of new building can only unfold and ripen to maturity in the same measure as the changing ideas of order succeed in accomplishing a new form of society."

HUGH CASSON [*A.*]

* *Modern Building: Its Nature, Problems and Forms*, by Walter Curt Behrendt. 8vo. xiv + 242 + 34 plates. London: Martin Hopkinson. 1938. 10s. 6d.

## ROLLING ON*

The 1938 *Studio Year Book of Decorative Art* proposes the theory that we are settling down. "The world," the editor suggests, "is not altogether happy with the starkness of architecture and decoration which has been proposed in recent times as an end in itself." So now we are moving forward to a period in which decoration comes again into its own. That there has been a revival of decoration may be true to a very limited extent, but surely it is wrong to suggest that anyone from the ranks of modernism whose opinion counts has proposed starkness as an end in itself; certainly none of the people who are presumably referred to here. The most that has been suggested that could be misinterpreted to mean what the *Studio* would like us to think it means is that modern architecture is dealing in æsthetic values which are sufficient without the additional interests of applied decoration and ornament. This is a very different thing. Other arguments are that in this teething period it is right that architecture should live ascetically. But the basic argument is probably that the end of architecture is to provide freedom for living—playing, working, resting and whatever things make up life, and that this can best be achieved by removing as much as possible of the set staging of architectural decoration: but the test of this is the simple one—do people want decoration?

Maybe temperament differs so fundamentally from age to age that in one age people need their ornament to get full satisfaction and, as a matter of business, to perform satisfactorily whatever engages their time, while at another "satisfaction" can only be liberated by ascetic surroundings. If the world is turning to ornament now it is probably because the world gets on better with an increasing amount of distraction and indeed who can blame the world for seeking it.

It is a matter pleasing to the *Studio* as to many others that now we are returning to "sanity." Neither "the desire for a style at all costs" or the "pursuit of function at all costs" is what it likes and indeed the title *Year Book of Decorative Art* would have been difficult to carry convincingly if the tendency toward "functionalism" had continued, but the Year Book is saved from an embarrassing situation and is naturaly quite pleased about it.

The Year Book is divided into twelve chapters, the first dealing with the Exteriors of Houses, the next six with the principal rooms, the last five with equipment, furnishings and furniture. Allowing for an average of three photographs on all of its 144 pages, the book has 576 pictures which cover the year's work more than adequately in this limited field of domestic art. The pictures are almost all good both pictorally and as explanations of their subjects. Anyone who has had the task of choosing illustrations will know how difficult it is to meet both these conditions and will congratulate the *Studio* for having done it so successfully.

All the subjects are briefly but adequately described; each house by the name of its architect and generally by notes on its materials and form of construction, its aspect and accommodation and sometimes by the price. The architects are a very representative lot, but not all their work illustrated was built in 1937-38. There is work, for instance, by Gropius and Hans Scharoun which was built many years ago in Germany, but this presumably is introduced chiefly to contrast with the acceptable Nationalist architecture of Hitler's Germany. Dates should have been given.

Esther Meynell in her introduction to the Exteriors section shadow boxes gracefully, and with commendable agility, with the phantoms of her non-existent iconoclastic enemies. "It is not a question of resisting change—it is a question of resisting the destruction of things proved good and adapted to human needs, by ways of building that have yet to prove their permanent value not as "machines for living in, but as an expression of mankind's need for a home that is built not merely with hands, but with the spirit."

The least satisfactory parts of the book are the chapters on pottery, glass and metal ware. Domestic objects for wealthy households still and probably always will represent the least stable, most fippery side of domestic art. Such a lot of art to such little purpose. But this is a criticism not of the *Studio* for recording it but of the world that produces it. The *Studio's* inestimably valuable purpose is as a source book for future historians and this the current Year Book fulfils as amply as all its thirty-two predecessors.

## THE RAILWAY AGE†

The Stockton and Darlington line, opened in 1825, is usually considered the first railway. But it was only the first railway in the sense that it was worked by steam locomotion. The essential principle of a railway—the adhesion of a smooth wheel to a smooth rail—had been recognised long before and a large number of tramways worked by horses, ropes or gravity were in existence all over England for drawing trucks of timber and coal. That enterprising magnate Ralph Allen had, for example, constructed a railway at Prior Park, Bath, to carry stone from his quarries; and the stone for London Bridge and other public buildings in London was conveyed from quarries close to Hay Tor on Dartmoor down to the canal at Teigngrace—a descent of 1,200 ft. in seven miles—by a granite tramway which still is visible for portions of its length. With its flanged rails and junctions of primitive stone points it survives to remind us that many of these tramways were not mere temporary expedients but had carefully constructed tracks laid to well-graded levels and curves.

Towards the end of the 18th century, however, the more general use of cast-iron rails and cast-iron flanged wheels prepared the way for the steam engine. As early as 1804 Trevithick produced his first machine, but a quarter of a century, during which he and others were busy with experiments, elapsed before the invention was perfected. With the production of George Stephenson's "Rocket" for the Liverpool and Manchester Railway in 1829 the Railway Age began.

* *Decorative Art*. The Sudio Year Book, 1938. 4to. 144 pp. + 8 colour plates. London: Studio. 1938. Wrappers. 7s. 6d., Cloth, 10s. 6d.

† *The Railway Age*. By Cyril Bruyn Andrews. 4to. xiv + 146 pp. + 82 plates illustrations. Country Life. 1937. 12s. 6d.

It is fortunate that at such an interesting juncture a chronicler, Britton, and an artist, Bourne, occupied themselves in recording what took place. Bourne was indeed an expert draughtsman whose works ought to be collected and published; his lithographs, as the author of this book states, are "a perfect combination of accuracy and artistic perception." They portray the immense activity, the vast undertakings which in a few years were remodelling the English landscape. Huge embankments were thrown up, cuttings excavated, tunnels, bridges and viaducts built on an engineering scale unknown before. Where but a few years back were green fields and humble villages, the influence of the railways caused towns to spring up and whole districts to become industrialised. Well might George Eliot exclaim with dismay at the changes wrought by the London and Birmingham Railway in her familiar Midland scene.

Her feelings were widely shared in many quarters, for the enthusiasm of the railway pioneers was balanced by the panic-stricken alarm of those like the Poet Laureate, Wordsworth, who, when he heard of the proposed railway from Kendal to Windermere, penned his indignant sonnet—

"Is then no nook of English ground secure."

Wild fancies assailed the credulous, not least a belief that trains would soon cease to require rails and would be free to go wherever they pleased. The contemporary pages of *Punch* and endless cartoons in the papers gave expression to these terrors in representations of boilers bursting and catastrophic collisions.

But in 1842 an event took place which gave to the railways the seal of the highest approval. Queen Victoria travelled up by Great Western from Slough to Paddington, and henceforward regularly used the railways for royal journeys. Her patronage both dispelled any hesitation on the part of the public and stimulated the growing confidence of the railway authorities themselves.

We see something of this in the qualities of railway architecture. Stations began to be thought of and designed as public buildings of importance, sometimes, as at Euston, almost as public monuments. A sense of responsibility prompted laudable, if too often misguided, efforts to make the new stations suitable to their environment and such curious productions as the Citadel Station, Carlisle, Shrewsbury Station and Temple Meads, Bristol, are to be accounted for in this way. Railway engineering was, on the whole, much better than railway architecture and paradoxically achieved unconsciously what the other failed to achieve consciously. The finest legacy of railway building, in fact, is not the stations, where most was attempted, but the viaducts, bridges and entrances to tunnels, where little was attempted but an effect of grand simplicity obtained.

This is a subject that deserves fuller treatment and it is unfortunate that this interesting and well-illustrated book should only touch on the fringe of it. The chapters on Engineering Feats, London and Provincial Stations, and Art and Decoration are good so far as they go, but leave the architectural reader wishing that the earlier chapters had been curtailed by the omission of some of the abundant quotations. And even the railway enthusiast will feel some disappointment that a book on the Railway Age should stop short at about 1850, when the Railway Golden Age had not so much as begun.

S. E. Dykes Bower [*A.*]

## VICTORIAN LONDON

The London Miscellany. *By Robert Harling. La. 8vo. 256 pp. + 33 plates. London: William Heinemann. 1937. 8s. 6d.*

Mr. Robert Harling has compiled a miscellany of nineteenth-century London from a remarkable variety of contemporary sources. It has all the advantages and disadvantages of a pictorial scrapbook, with its pensive cats, bonneted babies patting horses' noses, its pansies and poppies and puppies: the advantage of giving a special sense of the spirit of the times in a form that volumes of academic treatises cannot give; the disadvantage of capriciousness arising from an arbitrary and formless collection of bits and pieces, which it is easy to admire but difficult to criticise. Mr. Harling has, however, largely avoided the pitfalls into which he could have fallen, in keeping to a single subject and a single period—London, the unique city, in the nineteenth, the unique century; though probably with an eye on the present-day blind spot enthusiasm for the early Victorian he has concentrated to a certain extent on the period of transition from the London of Canning and Brougham to the London of Peel and Chadwick. Mr. Harling has also avoided a *pointilliste* effect in painting his picture by varying the lengths of his extracts and collecting them from a remarkably wide range of contemporary sources—guides to the city, distinguished correspondents of foreign newspapers, such as Louis Blanc; William Cobbett, just a dash of *Punch*; and a great assortment of others, journalistic, academic, grave and gay.

The result is as lively a picture of London a hundred years ago as one could wish for. The book is divided into nine sections—another successful manœuvre to marshal the scraps into form—and they are almost all equally entertaining. There is the *London Gourmet*: no carrot cures or calory complexes for him. If he was not fed from subterranean ovens at his club he frequented alamode beef houses or chop-houses, and was expected to eat hearty food "which will enable a man to buffet through the world." (How the Victorian did love a pun!) There is Lord's, with the new-fangled overarm bowling being tried out; the *London Reformer*, dispensing piecemeal charity to the deserving poor against a background of rampant utilitarianism; while Samuel Smiles was patronising art and demanding, since he had no family, that it should reflect his fortune. The result of his new patronage can be seen in a great, amorphous turgid "Day Dreamer Easychair," illustrated on p. 78 (and exhibited at the Crystal Palace). There is the *London Vista*, with comments from David Hughson's *Walks Through London* 1817 ("Portland-Place is one of the finest streets in Europe"); the Bank of England "showing the improvements by Mr. Soane"; and an account of the architectural amenities of the newly established Savoy Hotel (1899). There are the evil ways of the London hotel-keeper and cabbies with unwholesomely coloured noses; Mr. Shillibeer's first omnibus of 1829, with conductors in velvet livery and fares 6d. or 1s. to and from the Yorkshire Stingo; a description by Miss Mitford of a London fog.

But no catalogue can give an impression of the charm or richness of the material that Mr. Harling has collected; nor of the contrasts he has been able to carry off by the placing of an extract from one part of the century next to another. For those whose knowledge of London, and more particularly of the nineteenth century, is not wide, it will perhaps not escape being inconsequential or even confusing; but for those

who can provide a background to them the scraps will fall in a consistent picture. Mr. Harling's purpose, however, has not been to instruct but to give pleasure, or he might with advantage have concentrated on a decade or two and added an index. The point is that he has done it for fun and he has done it with the greatest ingenuity, and the result is highly pleasing.

The production of the book adds considerably to this result. The format is unusual and elegant ; the printing is clear, bold and fresh.

J. H. L.

## EVERY DAY IN EVERY WAY GETS BETTER AND BETTER

A History of Everyday Things in England, Vol. II : 1500 to 1799. *By Marjorie and C. H. B. Quennell. 3rd edition, 5th impression, revised and enlarged. 8vo. xvi + 224 pp. + 39 plates. London : Batsford. 1937. 8s. 6d.*

This is a new edition of part of one of the most famous books ever written for English schoolchildren that has delighted and informed grown-ups, teachers, professional men (on the testimony of its use in the R.I.B.A. Library), and the innumerable people who have some part of the Quennell's own tireless interest in people and things.

Too often the phrase " new edition " means nothing more than new " impression " ; the same book as before, just reproduced. If ever there was a book which it would have been worth reprinting without any alterations it was this or any other of the Everyday Things series, but to rest easily and even deservedly on laurels was never a Quennell characteristic. Here, where we might have been content with just what we had before, Mrs. Quennell has revised and added, polished up little details, altered a word or whole paragraphs, deleted some things which presumably she thought redundant or perhaps even dull, added a phrase and changed about and added to the line illustrations, and added over thirty new half-tone plates comprising almost twice as many as that new pictures, mostly reproduced from contemporary engravings. Mr. Batsford has obviously co-operated wholeheartedly in this excellent venture, and for the same price as before has given us more and better fare.

The revisions do not need detailing ; for the most part they are small changes that are none the less effective. They have been made by Mrs. Quennell on the lines, as she says in an introductory note, which she feels C. H. B. Quennell would himself have adopted had he lived to fulfil this task with her.

Once more this grand entertainment, the most pleasantly sugared pill of knowledge that we know, can be commended wholeheartedly.

## MEXICAN AND POLISH ARCHITECTURE

The New Architecture in Mexico. *By Esther Born. 4to. 159 pp. London : Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner. 1938. 21s. net.*

Architektura Polska. *4to. 112 pp. Published by Architektura i Budownictwo. Warsaw. 1937.*

The text that accompanies a collection of architectural photographs is only rarely worth the paper it is printed on. We are accustomed to nebulous generalisation with the minimum of information, but Esther Born and her collaborators in *The New Architecture in Mexico* have been generously informative, so that, from their description, one can follow the whole progress of the modern movement there ; how it was encouraged by the Government and used for official building after the revolution, how taken up later by the rich and corrupted in their villas into a modernistic nastiness, and how opposed by a reactionary nationalist group who hold that only neo-Colonial and pre-Cortes forms are suited to the needs of modern Mexico.

An interesting article by Professor Cuevas tells of the " remarkable jelly " which is the sub-soil of Mexico City, made of fine volcanic ash, wherein water occupies three times the solid content, and describes the structural consequences, with lucid diagrams ; while another by Sanchez Fogarty, one of the leaders of the Mexican modern movement, describes and defends the prevalent system whereby the architect is his own contractor.

The plates are very good, and have each a plan and (sometimes) a date.

In Mexico, apparently, they like to show their structure, and if occasionally in their enthusiasm for the structure they forget to put in the building, that is an oversight that can be remedied.

They also like colour.

" Exterior walls are painted deep blue and Venetian red, all steel painted in vermilion."

" Exterior walls painted bright blue, rose and deep earth red. All steel work orange vermilion."

The photographs cannot show these rainbow effects, so that the white buildings have an unfair advantage as illustrated, but it is easy to believe that in the Mexican sunshine the colours enhance these rather brutal forms behind their cactus hedges.

This book is as successful as any I have seen in telling the reader what he wants to know. The facts provided are well arranged, full and relevant, and the choice of buildings to illustrate has a bearing on the text ; praise which can be given surprisingly seldom to architectural picture books.

It is perhaps unlucky for the book on Polish architecture that it should share a review with the Mexican book, for the contrast is all in favour of the latter, as a book. Indeed, we are hardly given a chance to judge the merits or history of modern Polish architecture, for the compilers of *Architektura Polska* would have us content with less even than the usual minimum. In no case is a photograph explained by a plan, or defined by a date. And the photographs, many of which make quite interesting pictures, are often taken in such a way that anyone seriously wanting information is given no real idea of the architecture.

The text altogether is unsatisfactory. An article on " Les influences françaises sur l'architecture moderne en Pologne " devotes two pages to proving that there was none ; while the section on post-war architecture is mainly concerned with the praises of Wyspiañski, of whom not a single work is illustrated.

With such a lack of data it is not possible to form any judgment of Polish architecture from this book, and the main pleasure to be extracted from it is the contemplation of the few photographs that there are of traditional Polish buildings, notably a magnificent church in the Jesuit style at Berezwecz.

Michael Dugdale [*A.*]

## PLANNING LAW DESCRIBED

PLANNING LAW FOR TOWN AND COUNTRY. *By Desmond Heap. 8vo. xv+208 pp. London: Sweet & Maxwell. 1938. 12s. 6d.*

This book is not a clause by clause annotation of town and country law, but is, as the author describes it, a "treatise . . . for [those] who whilst fully entitled to leave intricate points of law to their legal advisers, might nevertheless be expected to have at least a working knowledge of the . . . Act." "Accordingly," he adds, "I have not hesitated to indulge in expressions of opinion and in certain instances to make criticisms of the Act." Mr. Heap is prosecuting solicitor to the Leeds Corporation and may consequently be expected to know more than most practising town planners and more than most laymen of the operation of the Act as it affects ordinary prosecuted people. As a legal member of the T.P.I. and as lecturer in law to the Leeds School of Architecture he may be expected to appreciate more than the merely legal side and to be experienced in exposition. All these things the book shows him to be.

Mr Heap explains what the Act allows and what limitations it imposes, and does so clearly and simply in a way that is understandable by non-lawyers, but from the point of view of architects and architectural students this book is of particular value because it does not stop short at a bare exposition of the Act, however clear and useful that exposition may be, but in every part relates the objectives of the present law to its actual efficacy, the ideals of planning to the meagre attainment, and points the way of possible development.

Sir Raymond Unwin contributes an introduction in which he praises Mr. Heap's work and expresses in no uncertain terms his opinion of the serious extent to which the opportunities for good planning provided by the 1932 Act in its draft form were sacrificed in the final form of the Act to meet persistent and short-sighted opposition from private property interests.

## SCIENCE ABSTRACTS

NATIONAL PHYSICAL LABORATORY. *Abstracts of Papers published in 1936. 8vo. iv+66 pp. 1938. London: H.M.S.O. 6d.*

This pamphlet contains abstracts of the papers published from the N.P.L. during 1936, mostly in scientific and technical journals and some by the Stationery Office. They give a concise summary of the laboratory's work. Many members of the architectural profession who wish or need to follow the general trend of scientific developments will welcome this guide. Among the subjects referred to that have practical architectural reference are the following: A paper by Dr. Griffiths and Mr. Awbery on apparatus for maintaining constant humidity; a paper by Dr. Griffiths and Mr. Powell on laws governing evaporation from surfaces; several papers by Drs. Kaye and Constable on acoustic research, and papers on the strength, etc., of metals.

## BITUMINOUS ROOFING FELTS

BRITISH STANDARD CLASSIFICATION FOR BITUMINOUS ROOFING FELTS. (*B.S.S. 747-1937.*) *London: Brit. Standards Inst. 1937. 2s.*

The British Standards Institution set out to prepare a standard specification for roofing felts, and a Technical Committee was appointed for that purpose. The range of bases, impregnations, finishes and sizes was very soon found to be so wide that one of the first duties of the trade members was to provide for the purpose of the Committee generally some clear statement of make-up and customary use. It also soon became clear that the firms engaged in producing the various roofings had very good ideas of their varying practical limits: that is to say, some were definitely devised for cheap temporary work, whilst others at their best were devised for sound permanent work. Much of the information obtained by reports and visits to various factories was new to the non-trade members, who came to the conclusion that a little knowledge had been a dangerous thing, but that better knowledge increased the possible safe uses

The Committee was disappointed to find that at present there are insufficient tests for determining the qualities of either the component materials or the performance of the finished product as are necessary for the preparation of a specification. They urge, however, that this work should be pursued. In the meantime they considered that much good and no harm would ensue if a classification of roofing felts was issued together with a guide to their selection for various purposes and other hints to users. Further some useful steps were agreed for marketing the products in a more standardised manner.

This is a rare instance of a mere classification as distinct from a specification being issued by the British Standards Institution, but the Committee ventures to hope that the results of their efforts none the less will be appreciated.

I would like to make grateful acknowledgment to the trade members of the Committee and the trade generally for the great assistance given in producing this classification. S. P. T.

## PRICE BOOKS

SPONS' ARCHITECTS' AND BUILDERS' POCKET PRICE BOOK. *65th Ed. Edited by Clyde Young. Sm. 8vo. London: Spon. 1938. 5s.*

The need for an architects' price book is obvious. The value of any particular one depends upon its accuracy and up-to-dateness, which the reviewer can only assess by picking out pages at random. The natural tendency in a work of this type is to leave matter standing, corrected only in detail, and in this case there is the usual retention of work now all but obsolete, and the omission of much current practice. It also suffers from careless use of proprietary trade names in place of generic descriptions. In plasterer, for instance, both hydrated lime and asbestos cement sheets are referred to by one proprietary name, as though there were no other makes in existence. Similarly in the painter section oil-bound distempers are referred to by one proprietary name, whereas there must be 30 or 40 on the market which can all be described generically.

A fundamental difficulty in publications of this sort lies in the rapid fluctuations in prices since the War. This cannot be overcome, but the figures quoted should be dated in detail unless they are to be misleading. For instance, the current rates of wages and the grading of towns are apparently based upon the February 1937 figures, but without an alternative source to check this point it would be impossible to be certain, and as re-grading is an almost monthly occurrence and as the basis figure is to change during the course of this year, omission of the date may be exceedingly misleading, for it is not safe to rely on the date of the title page where there is more than one revision yearly.

It is probable that to the architect the value of such publications lies more in the rough approximate figures at the beginning than in the detailed figures which he would normally obtain with greater safety from his quantity surveyor. This particular publication goes further than most in giving foot cube prices and approximate prices, but again these are unfortunately undated. The inference is that they refer to 1937, judging by the title page, but more careful investigation shows that many pre-War buildings are included, such as the War Office, the Houses of Parliament, the Foreign Office, and the Law Courts, and the inclusion of these not unnaturally raises a doubt as to how far the whole has been corrected. Similarly not only is the price per foot cube for factories far higher than in one's own experience is possible to-day, but the suggestion that reinforced concrete is 16 per cent. cheaper than any other form of factory construction is by no means universally accepted.

It would, perhaps, have been fairer to have picked out an equal number of cases in which the information is both accurate and up-to-date. The purchaser, however, is entitled in the case of publications of this sort to rely on the whole, and the inclusion of a single inaccurate statement automatically reduces the value of the remainder.

# Accessions to the Library

## 1937-1938—VII

Lists of all books, pamphlets, drawings and photographs presented to, or purchased by, the Library are published periodically. It is suggested that members who wish to be in close touch with the development of the Library should make a point of retaining these lists for reference.

Any notes which appear in the lists are published without prejudice to a further and more detailed criticism.

*Books presented by publisher for review marked* R.

*Books purchased marked* P.

•*Books of which there is at least one copy in the Loan Library.*

### ARCHITECTURE

#### Societies

**R.I.B.A.**

Transactions. 1853/54—60/61 [and other documents].
In 2 vols. 1854-1861.
*Presented by Messrs. Reade, Jackson and Parry (civil engineers).*

#### Theory, Design

**Pond (Irving K.)**

Big top rhythms. A study in life and art. [Acrobatics and æsthetics.]
7¾″. (xii) + 231 pp. Chicago & New York: Willett, Clark. 1937. ($2.00.)
*Presented by the Author,* Hon. D. Arch. [*Hon. Corr. Mem.*].

**Wallen (William)**

Two essays elucidating the geometrical principles of Gothic architecture: *etc.*
pam. 8o. Leeds. 1842.
*Presented by Mr. Cyril E. Kennedy,* F.S.I.

#### History

**Cudworth (C. L.)**

Dutch influence in East Anglian architecture. (*From* Cambridge Antiq. Soc., Proc. xxxvii.)
8¾″. 20 pp. + v pls. [Cambridge. 193—.]
(*Bound with* Hughes (H. C.), Some notes . . ., [193—].)
*Presented by the Author.*

**Dormoy (Marie)**

L'Architecture française.
10″. var. pp. Paris: Archre. d'Aujourd'hui. 1938. (10s. 6d.) P.

**Nuttall ( )**

A Brief historical disquisition on the general principles and leading characteristics of ancient architecture. (Extracted from N—'s Classical and archæological dictionary.)
pam. 8o. Lond. [18—.]

**Donaldson (T. L.)**

A Review of the professional life of Sir John Soane, archt. *Etc.* Read at . . . I— of B— A— *etc.*
pam. 8o. Lond. 1837.
—*Both presented by Mr. Cyril E. Kennedy,* F.S.I.

**[Gwilliam (D. A.)]**

The Influence of Greek architecture on the buildings of the British Isles. (Banister Fletcher Essay, 1938.)
typescript. *Pencil D. & Phot.* 13″. [1936.]
*Presented by the Author.*

**Architektura i Budownictwo,** *journal*

Architektura Polska.
12½″. Warsaw. 1937. R.

**Born (Esther)**

The New architecture in Mexico. . . . Arts. on contemporary painting and sculpture by Justino Fernandez.
11¾″. (viii) + 159 pp. [New York:] Architectural Record; Lond.: Kegan Paul. 1938. £1 1s. R.

#### Draughtsmanship

**Hubbard (Hesketh)**

Architectural painting in oils. (Instructional art series (1).)
9½″ × 7¼″. 28 pp. + pls. Lond.: Pitman. 1938. 2s. 6d. P.

#### Professional Practice

**Swarbrick (John)**

Easements of light. Vol. ii. 1934. £1 10s.
P. *for Loan Library.*

**Davies (B. Price)**

Specification for houses. Compiled with special reference to damp and weather-proof construction.
2nd ed. 12½″. iii + 74 pp. Cardiff: Bg. Estimator Pubns. 1937. 5s. 6d. P.

**Spon,** *publ.*

Architects' and builders' pocket price book. Clyde Young, ed.
65th ed. 1938. 5s. R.

#### Building Types
(Civil)

**Maudsley (J. A.)**

A Modern departmental store. (Thesis for Final Examination, Dec.)
typescript. *Ink and Coloured D.* 12¾″. 1937.
*Presented by the Author.*

**Sekon (G. A.)**

Locomotion in Victorian London.
9″. xi + 211 pp. + pls. Lond., &c.: O.U.P. 1938. 12s. 6d. P.

**Crutchley (E. A.)**

A History and description of the Pitt Press [Cambridge] erected . . . for the use of the University printing press A.D. 1833. Altered and restored A.D. 1937.
9″. v + 36 pp. + (7) pls. Camb.: U.P. 1938. 5s. P.

**Rank (J. S.)**

Colonies for the mentally defective. Their planning and design. (Final Examination, Dec.)
13″. [1937.]
*Presented by the Author.*

**Smirke (Edward)**

On the Hall and Round Table at Winchester.
extract. 8o. 11 p. [18—.]
*Presented by Mr. Cyril E. Kennedy,* F.S.I.

**Bristol: Public Libraries**

The Cinema. [Bibliography.]
pam. 7½″. [Bristol. 1938.] R.

BIRMINGHAM, *City of*
Coronation. . . . The decorations of the municipal and other buildings and principal streets and parks in Birmingham.
pam. 9¾″. Birmingham : Information Bureau. [1937.] 6d.
*Presented by Mr. Benjamin Walker*, F.S.A. [*A.*].

WHITNEY (C. S.)
Bridges. A study in their art, science and evolution.
12″. 363 pp. New York : W. E. Rudge. 1929. (10s. 6d.) P. (remaindered).

(RELIGIOUS)

MODERN SACRED ART, *annual*
Modern sacred art. An international annual review. [Serial year not stated.] Joan Morris, ed.
11¼″. Lond. : Sands & Co. 1938. 7s. 6d. P.

DUNKIN (J.)
Account of St. John's Church, Sidcup, Chislehurst [built 1841-44]. (From J. D—'s History of Dartford.)
pam. 8o. n.p. [after 1844.]
*Presented by Mr. Cyril E. Kennedy*, F.S.I.

PRIP-MÖLLER (J.)
Chinese Buddhist monasteries. *Etc.*
15¼″. (xiv) + 396 pp. incl. pls. & folding pls. Copenhagen : G. E. C. Gads. 1937. (£6 6s.) P.

(DOMESTIC)

HUGHES (H. C.)
Some notes on the character and dating of domestic architecture in the Cambridge district. (*From* Cambridge Antiq. Soc., Proc. xxxvii.)
8¾″. 23 pp. [Cambridge. 193—.]
*Presented by the Author* [*F.*].

ARCHITECTS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
Great Georgian houses of America.
[Vol. ii.] 14″. New York : Scribner Press. 1937. R.

WEAVER (*Sir* LAWRENCE)
*Small country houses, their repair and enlargement *&c.*
1914. (7s. 6d.). P. (remaindered).

DECORATION, FITTINGS

PATMORE (DEREK)
*Decoration for the small home.
9¾″. xv + 208 + (16) pp. incl. pls. Lond. : Putnam. 1938. 10s. 6d. R. & P.

ACKERMAN (PHYLLIS)
Tapestry. The mirror of civilisation.
9″. xi + 451 pp. + xlviii pls. (backed). New York and Lond. : O.U.P. 1933. (7s. 6d.) P. (remaindered).

LITTLE (A. G.), *editor*
Franciscan history and legend in English mediaeval art. [By various auts.] (British Society of Franciscan Studies, xix, for 1935-36.)
8¾″. xix + 119 pp. + pls. (some folding). Manchester : U.P. 1937. £1 1s. R.

ALLIED ARTS

STUDIO, *publ.*
*Decorative art. The Studio year book.
1938. 10s. 6d. R. and P.

DRUMMOND (HENRY)
Letter to Thomas Phillips . . . on the connection between the fine arts and religion, and the means of their revival.
pam. 8o. Lond. 1840.
*Presented by Mr. Cyril E. Kennedy*, F.S.I.

FOKKER (T. H.)
Roman baroque art. The history of a style.
2 vols. 11¼″ × 8¾″. Lond. : O.U.P. 1938. £5 5s. the 2. P.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS
[Exhibitions.] International exhibition of Chinese art.
8½″. Lond. 1935-6. *Presented.*
[Exhibitions.] International exhibition of Persian art.
3rd ed. 8½″. Lond. 1931. *Presented.*

BUILDING SCIENCE

BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION
Handbook of information including indexed lists, *&c.*
1938. 1s. R.

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH : BUILDING RESEARCH STATION LIBRARY
A Classified list of the text-books and works of reference . . . Suppt. No. 5 . . . 1937. [1938.] R.

MATERIALS

SCIENCE MUSEUM
*Timber. An outline . . . special exhibition . . . 1937— . . . 38. By B. A. Jay. 1937. 6d. P.

BAILEY (H. O.)
Bricks and brickwork. An attempt to discover what is a good brick and good brickwork. (Thesis for Final Examination, Dec.)
typescript, MS. tables & *Phots.* 10¼″. 1937.
*Presented by the Author.*

SANITARY SCIENCE, EQUIPMENT

BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION
B. s. s. :
No. 766 . . . for bafflers or draught diverters on gas appliances, *etc.*
8½″. 1938. 2s. R.

HOLMES (R. E.)
Air conditioning in summer and winter.
9″. xii + 296 pp. New York : McGraw-Hill Bk. Co. 1938. 18s. P.

TOPOGRAPHY

MASSINGHAM (H. J.)
Cotswold country. A survey of limestone England from the Dorset coast to Lincolnshire. (The Face of Britain *series.*)
8¼″. viii + 120 pp. + pls. Lond. : Batsford. 1937. 7s. 6d. R.

RURAL PRESERVATION

TRUEMAN (A. E.)
The Scenery of England and Wales. [From the geological standpoint.]
7¼″. 351 pp. Lond. : Gollancz. 1938. 7s. 6d. P.

*DUPLICATES*

*Also 6 pamphlets, duplicates, to store.*
*Presented by Mr. Cyril E. Kennedy*, F.S.I.

## REVIEW OF PERIODICALS

*The publication of the Review of Periodicals has unavoidably been postponed until the next number of the* JOURNAL.

# Correspondence

## HIGHFALUTIN

*Southern House,*
*Cannon Street,*
*London, E.C.4*
*Or what is ere once waiters' bedrooms in the old Cannon Street Hotel*
*23.2.38*

*To the Editor*, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.

DEAR SIR,—It may interest your correspondent to know that there *are* straws in my hair, that a cold perspiration bespangles my brow (sing willow!), that my Ribarian tie (of which, in an old-fashioned way, I am inordinately proud) is under my left ear, that I have re-read as much as I could stomach of the introductory article of which he is the author, but that now—alas—I have developed a squint. Indeed, the convolutions of my brain are as unsymmetrically axonometric as the newest of the new.

Such is the effect of trying to derive some terse sense from something which is not terse.

The Mars Group has something interesting to say that is worth while. For goodness sake let them say it in a way that is not an irritation or annoyance; in a way that is comparable to some of their architecture, which, seen in its right setting, can be lovely—set in woods against trees it can be as gracious as an old manor-house. As an excuse for making modern slums it is not so gracious. May I suggest to the Group that they take a grouply ramble round the new Wembley, for instance, to see the things that, if they are not careful, will be placed to their credit in the future; just as now much in the old slums is laid to the credit of the architects of the time, with which, it is clear to us, they had nothing whatever to do. If the Group is not mindful it will be credited with the work of the speculators who are speculating with the life-savings of the newlyweds who will be paying for years to come for the love-hutches they are being taught to believe are *the thing*. Far too many to the acre, all angularly jostling and cocking snooks at each other from their corner windows; with door-knobs that "*come orf in the 'and*" quite in the old academic way, and where "*the 'eat of the body warms the water*" in the chilly bathrooms. I know, for I have been called in, too late, to get redress for the poor things.

Now, there is something for the Mars Group to get lyrical about and rectify if they can.

Dare I ask writers on the "new" to avoid threadworn *clichés* (I still know a little French), such as "*unresolved duality*" and "*academic mediocrity*," the latter of which is, after all, only the new of yesterday. These new young men seem to be too narrow and bigoted to have space in their minds for anything but the one thing that absorbs them, or to realise that the earth of a dusty to-day is the dust of an earthy to-morrow.

And at the last you will see I have been writing with "Patience."

Yours very truly,

L. SYLVESTER SULLIVAN [*F.*]

## MUSEUM PLANS

"*Northam*,"
*47 Belmont Road,*
*Uxbridge*
*12.2.38*

*To the Editor*, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.

DEAR SIR,—Sir Flinders Petrie gives an ingenious plan for side-lighting the showcases in museums, published in the JOURNAL of 7 February last. Unless the light coming through glass is normal to its surface, there would appear to be a fallacy in his method, for the light in reality is that which enters the opening between the walls, so that if this opening were glazed across in line with the walls the amount and possibly the effect of lighting would be the same, and if glass intercepts some of the light, the greater the amount of glass for a given opening area the greater the amount of light intercepted. If rays of light are bent according to the angle of the glazed surface there may be a lot in his method, otherwise I can see no particular lighting advantage in it, but I have not experimented. Perhaps Sir Flinders Petrie would oblige by amplifying his contention, which, on the face of it, entails most wasteful and extravagant planning. Would it not be better to place large angle-windows in the corners of a square room as in Fig. 1?

Alternatively, Sir Flinders Petrie's principle may be carried out without extravagant or wasteful features, as shown in the second figure. The cranked angles of the plan need not necessarily be right angles.

Yours faithfully,
A. HARRY HERON [*Ret. A.*]

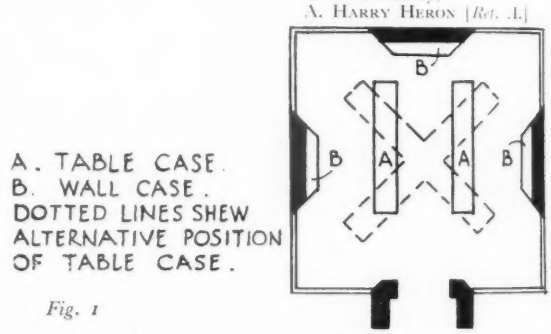



*Fig. 1*

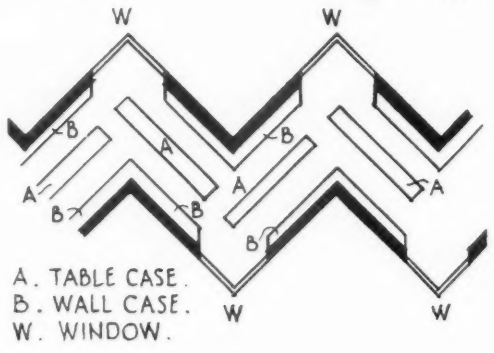



*Fig. 2*

# Notes

## A.A.S.T.A. FOREIGN TOUR: EASTER VISIT TO AMSTERDAM

Arrangements are being made by the A.A.S.T.A. for a four-day tour at Easter to Amsterdam, leaving London on the night of Thursday, 14 April, and returning from Amsterdam on the night of Monday, 18 April. It is hoped to provide opportunities for the party to meet Dutch architects and to visit modern buildings in and around Amsterdam, and to make an excursion to Hilversum. The provisional price of the tour, inclusive of fares, reserved seats, breakfast, dinner and room at the hotel for four days, is £6 to A.A.S.T.A. members, £6 5s. to non-members.

## ARCHITECTURAL TOUR TO POLAND

The University Travel Club has arranged a nineteen-day tour to Poland, beginning on 26 July. Mr. MacDonald Gill [*F.*] will lead the tour, which will include visits to Poznan, Warsaw, Wilno, Lwow, Krakow, Zakopane (Carpathian Mountains), and will end up in Cologne. Cost: 2nd class throughout, £31 10s.; 3rd class throughout, £27 10s., inclusive of all meals, gratuities and excursions. A guide will accompany the party in Poland. Extras: Sleeper, Cologne-Berlin, £1 0s. 10d.; 1st class steamer Dover-Ostend, 9s. For further particulars apply to E. Pilkington, Travel Secretary, University Travel Club, 25 Cockspur Street, S.W.1. Details of the itinerary may be seen at the R.I.B.A.

## FOREST PRODUCTS RESEARCH EXHIBITION

An exhibition of the work of the Forest Products Research Laboratory, which will be held in the large hall of the College of Technology, Manchester, from 29 March to 2 April, will be opened by the Lord Mayor of Manchester on 28 March. The opening will be followed by a lecture on "The Strength of Structural Timbers in Relation to Quality," by C. J. Chaplin, M.Sc. Two short lectures will also be given on 31 March, one at 7.15, by R. A. G. Knight, on "The Moisture Content of Timber in Use, with Special Reference to New Buildings"; the second, at 7.45, by W. P. K. Findlay, on "The Importance of the Moisture in Timber in Relation to Decay." A conference will be held on 2 April at 3 p.m., when H. A. Cox will speak on "The Exhibition and the Work of the Laboratory." Admission is free and the Exhibition will be open from 2 p.m. till 9.30 p.m. Further particulars can be had from D. A. G. Reid, College of Technology, Manchester.

## ANGORA COMPETITION

The international competition for parliament buildings at Angora, Turkey, which was assessed by Mr. Howard Robertson [*F.*], W. M. Dudok and Ivar Tengbom, has been won by Herr Holzmeister, an Austrian architect.

## SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM

13 LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, W.C.2

Interesting house built 1812. Paintings, Sculptures, and Antiquities.

Open free 10.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays.
March, April, May, June, July, August.
All other times by cards obtained of the Curator.

## R.I.B.A. EXAMINATION DATES IN 1938 AND 1939

The dates on which the Final and Special Final Examinations will be held in the winter of 1938 have been altered from those previously published to those given in the attached list.

INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION

20, 21, 23, 24 and 26 May 1938.
(Last day for receiving applications: 20 April 1938.)
18, 19, 21, 22 and 24 November 1938.
(Last day for receiving applications: 18 October 1938.)
19, 20, 22, 23 and 25 May 1939.
(Last day for receiving applications: 19 April 1939.)
3, 4, 6, 7 and 9 November 1939.
(Last day for receiving applications: 3 October 1939.)

FINAL EXAMINATION

13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 21 July 1938.
(Last day for receiving applications: 13 June 1938.)
30 November, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8 December 1938.
(Last day for receiving applications: 28 October 1938.)
5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 13 July 1939.
(Last day for receiving applications: 5 June 1939.)
29, 30 November, 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 December 1939.
(Last day for receiving applications: 27 October 1939.)

SPECIAL FINAL EXAMINATION

13, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 19 July 1938.
(Last day for receiving applications: 13 June 1938.)
30 November, 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 December 1938.
(Last day for receiving applications: 28 October 1938.)
5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11 July 1939.
(Last day for receiving applications: 5 June 1939.)
29, 30 November, 1, 2, 4 and 5 December 1939.
(Last day for receiving applications: 27 October 1939.)

STATUTORY EXAMINATION FOR DISTRICT SURVEYOR AND THE EXAMINATION FOR BUILDING SURVEYOR

4, 5 and 6 May 1938.
(Last day for receiving applications: 4 April 1938.)
5, 6 and 7 October 1938.
(Last day for receiving applications: 5 September 1938.)
3, 4 and 5 May 1939.
(Last day for receiving applications: 3 April 1939.)
4, 5 and 6 October 1939.
(Last day for receiving applications: 4 September 1939.)

## GEORGE WITTET MEMORIAL FUND, 1938

The Wittet Memorial Scholarship of Rs. 1,000 will be awarded in the month of June to holders of the Government of Bombay diploma in architecture who have not previously held the Scholarship for the best selection of drawings comprising (*a*) four double elephant mounted sheets of a building or buildings of architectural interests measured and rendered by the competitor; and (*b*) four double elephant mounted sheets of working drawings of a building or buildings designed and drawn by the competitor.

The jury will consist of the President of the Indian Institute of Architects, the Consulting Architect to the Government of Bombay, and the Professor of Architecture to the Government School of Art, Bombay, whose decision shall be final.

The successful competitor will be required to undertake to devote a period of at least three months to the study, measuring and delineating of either one important building or a number of smaller buildings of a particular class or period.

The Scholarship will be paid in three instalments of Rs. 400, Rs. 300 and Rs. 300 respectively, and the payment of the second and third instalment shall be subject to the jury being

satisfied that the holder of the Scholarship has made proper progress.

Drawings with the full name of the competitor should be sent to reach the Official Trustee of Bombay at his office in the Old Custom House Yard, Fort, Bombay, not later than 31 May. Full conditions of the competition can be obtained from the Official Trustee.

## NOTES FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL, 7 FEBRUARY 1938

### Examinations

*R.I.B.A. Intermediate Examination, November 1937*

The Board of Architectural Education reported the results as follows :—

| *Examined* | *Passed* | *Relegated* | *Percentage Passed* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 169 | 68 | 101 | 40 |

*R.I.B.A. Examiners, 1938*

On the recommendation of the Board, the Examiners for the year ending 31 December 1938 were appointed.

*Publication of R.I.B.A. Examination Results*

On the recommendation of the Board it was decided that candidates relegated in the Intermediate, Final and Special Final Examinations should be sent sheets showing the marks gained by them in the subjects in which they had been relegated.

### Schools

*The Glasgow School of Architecture*

On the recommendation of the Board it was decided that the recognition of the Certificate Course for exemption from the R.I.B.A. Intermediate Examination be continued.

It was also decided that the recognition of the Degree and Diploma Courses for exemption from the R.I.B.A. Intermediate and Final Examinations be continued.

*The Department of Architecture of the City of Oxford School of Art and Crafts*

On the recommendation of the Board it was decided that the three years' full-time day course be recognised for exemption from the R.I.B.A. Intermediate Examination.

### Appointments

*Officers of the Board of Architectural Education for the year ending 31 March 1939 :—*

Mr. Hubert Lidbetter : Chairman
Mr. A. B. Knapp-Fisher (Chairman of the Examinations Committee)
Mr. Joseph Addison (Chairman of the Schools Committee)
Mr. W. B. Edwards (Chairman of the Prizes and Scholarships Committee)
} Vice-Chairmen
Mr. C. Anthony Minoprio : Hon. Secretary

*R.I.B.A. Representatives on the Architects' Registration Council*

Joseph Addison, Henry V. Ashley, Percival C. Blow, T. A. Darcy Braddell, H. Chalton Bradshaw, Professor L. B. Budden, John Dower, Henry M. Fletcher, A. G. Henderson, A. B. Knapp-Fisher, Hubert Lidbetter, A. H. Moberly, Sydney Tatchell, Geoffrey C. Wilson.

*R.I.B.A. Representatives on the Admission Committee of the A.R.C.U.K.*

Geoffrey C. Wilson, J. D. Hossack, J. R. Leathart, Verner O. Rees.

*Annual Congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, Blackpool, 31 May to 4 June 1938.*

Mr. R. Anderton [*A.*], President of the Blackpool and Fylde Architectural Society.

*British Standards Institution : Committee to Co-ordinate Work of the Divisional Councils*

Mr. J. Ernest Franck [*F.*].

*British Standards Institution : Conference on the Standardisation of Couplers for Tubular Steel Scaffolding*

Mr. R. B. Ling [*F.*].

*British Standards Institution : Conference to Consider the Preparation of B.S. Specifications Relating to the Use of Timber in Building Construction*

Mr. Walter Goodesmith [*A.*].

*Proposed Research Committee on Domestic Open Fires Convened by the Combustion Appliance Makers' Association*

Mr. Percy V. Burnett [*F.*], Mr. P. J. Waldram [*L.*].

*Consultative Committee on Timbers of the Imperial Institute*

Mr. A. H. Barnes [*F.*], Lt.-Col. P. A. Hopkins [*F.*], Mr. P. J. Waldram [*L.*].

### Obituary

It was agreed to send messages of sympathy to the relatives of the late Mr. Alan E. Munby [*F.*], a former member of the Council, and a former Chairman of the Science Standing Committee, and to the relatives of the late Mr. J. H. Elder-Duncan, Secretary of the Architecture Club.

### Gift of Books from the Worshipful Company of Carpenters

The Literature Standing Committee reported a very valuable gift of books from the Worshipful Company of Carpenters.

The cordial thanks of the Council have been conveyed to the Master and members of the Company.

### Revision of the R.I.B.A. Scale of Charges

On the recommendation of the Practice Standing Committee Clause 2 (*e*) and (*f*) of the Scale of Charges was revised.

A note of the revision was published in the JOURNAL of 21 February.

### The Placing of Sub-Contracts

On the recommendation of the Practice Standing Committee and after consultation with the Ministry of Health, the memorandum on the placing of sub-contracts, which was originally published in the JOURNAL of 23 January 1937, was revised.

The revised memorandum was published in the JOURNAL of 21 February.

### Membership

The following members were elected :—

| | |
|---|---|
| As Fellows | 7 |
| As Associates | 26 |
| As Licentiates | 4 |

*Election 7 March 1938*

Applications for membership were approved as follows :

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| As Hon. Associates | 5 | applications |
| As Fellows | 5 | ,, |
| As Associates | 11 | ,, |
| As Licentiates | 5 | ,, |

*Reinstatements*

The following ex-members were reinstated :—

As Fellows : Raymond Bush.
Clare Arnold Clayton Greene.
As Licentiates : William Wells.
Alfred Felix de Parmentier Worsfold.

*Resignations*

The following resignations were accepted with regret :—

Frederick Charles Eden [*F.*].
Herbert Dewes Pritchett [*F.*].
Lieut.-Colonel Maurice Hunter [*Retd. F.*].
Rosemary Salmon Coutts [*A.*].
Harry Taylor [*A.*].
Alexander William Thornton [*A.*].
Charles John Fowler [*L.*].
John Douglas Webster [*Retd. L.*].

A special letter was sent to Mr. F. C. Eden thanking him for his services to the profession.

*Transfer to the Retired Members' Class*

The following members were transferred to the Retired Members' Class :—

As Retired Fellows : Edward Mansell.
Robert Ernest Stewardson.
As Retired Associates : Henry Thomas Bromley.
Thomas Denton Brooks.
As Retired Licentiate : Frederic Roger Betenson.

# OBITUARIES

## W. D. CARÖE, F.S.A. [*F.*]

We regret to announce the death in Cyprus on Friday, 25 February, of Mr. Walter Douglas Caröe. A memoir will be published in the next number of the JOURNAL.

## EUSTACE COHEN [*F.*]

We regret to record the death, at the age of 56, of Mr. Eustace Gresley Cohen [*F.*], a past-president of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Western Australia, and a distinguished member of the profession in Australia, who was held in the highest esteem by all with whom he was associated.

Mr. Cohen was born in Wales, and was educated at Repton. He was articled to Messrs. Lockwood, of Chester, and later worked in the office of Sir Guy Dawber. Early in the century, owing to ill-health, he went to Western Australia with his brother to farm and breed horses until his health was restored and he was able to return to architecture. In 1913 he entered into partnership with Mr. J. Herbert Eales in Perth, a partnership which lasted until his death.

In 1914 he enlisted in England, and, being given a subaltern's commission in the Royal Engineers, was appointed chief instructor at a school for training engineers in trench work.

In 1920 he returned to Perth and began to take a prominent part in the activities of the R.I.A.W.A., of which he later became president. He took a great interest in the welfare of younger architects, and founded the award of institute silver and bronze medals to promising students, which will be continued under his will in perpetuity. Mr. Cohen was known all over Western Australia as a designer of golf courses, and there is hardly a course there which was not laid out with his advice. At the time of his death he was a member of the Australian Architects' Registration Board, and he was a past-president of the Town Planning Association before the formation of the Town Planning Board.

Besides being an accomplished architect, Mr. Cohen was a musician and a photographer of almost international fame and a distinguished Freemason. His death has left a blank in the profession in Western Australia, and he is mourned throughout the State which he served in so many ways.

# ALLIED SOCIETIES' ACTIVITIES

The annual general meeting of the **Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland** was held on 16 December 1937.

The President, Mr. H. Allberry, announced the result of the ballot for the Council election 1938, and stated that Mr. Stephen S. Kelly had been nominated unanimously by the Council as honorary treasurer.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCIL

The Hon. Secretary read the annual report of the Council, which, after an interesting discussion by members, and with two amendments, was carried unanimously.

### HON. TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Hon. Treasurer read his annual report and statement of accounts, which showed an increase in the profits due principally to a steady decrease in the bank overdraft and to increased membership and examination fees. The report was carried unanimously.

### PRESIDENT'S VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

The President then gave his valedictory address. He briefly reviewed the events of importance during his term of office, and, in referring to the new articles of association and bye-laws, urged the younger members in particular to uphold the standard of professional conduct.

In correcting an impression given by a newspaper report of a speech at the annual dinner, he expressed his satisfaction over the growing feeling of unity amongst members, whether they were old or young, or had entered the portals by the Institute's examinations or as Bachelors of Architecture.

Mr. Allberry ended on a note of deep feeling in thanking members for the high office conferred on him, which would remain one of his happy memories throughout the rest of his career.

### INVESTITURE OF NEW PRESIDENT

The outgoing President then invested the new President, Mr. J. J. Robinson, M.Arch., with the insignia of office, and called upon him to take the second chair.

Mr. Robinson referred to the high standard of his predecessor's presidency, and paid a warm tribute to him personally and as a member of Council. Messrs. Vincent Kelly, F. G. Hicks, C. A. Harrington, J. H. Webb, E. G. Buckley and T. L. Cullimore also spoke. The President replied, and mentioned how gratified he was to have a Graduates' representative on the Council. He finally proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing President, which was carried unanimously.

At a meeting on 3 February the new President (Mr. J. J. Robinson) gave his inaugural address, in which he compared the difficulties facing the architectural profession to-day with those of 1869, when the then president deplored the unscrupulous adoption of the title *architect* by men by no means qualified to do so. He then reviewed recent building and town-planning developments in Ireland and ended with a brief survey of the activities of the Royal Institute during the year.

The annual general meeting of the **Central Branch of the South Wales Institute of Architects** was held at 6 p.m. on Monday, 21 February 1938, at the Dorothy Café, High Street, Cardiff.

The Hon. Treasurer's report and balance sheet showing the healthy financial condition of the branch were read and confirmed.

The Hon. Secretary's report was read and confirmed. It showed that a useful year's work had been carried through, and the course of lectures, exhibitions, visits, and tea discussions had been well attended and appreciated by the members. The report also referred to the special technical lectures which had been arranged jointly with the Welsh School of Architecture, the Technical College, Cardiff, and to the activities of the School of Architecture Club, which was doing valuable work for the younger members, its programme including a visit to Liverpool and the holding of a very successful dance.

Congratulations were extended to the following younger members on their successes in various competitions: Rome Scholarship, 1937:—Finalists: D. W. Roberts, H. E. A. Scard and N. P. Thomas. R.I.B.A. Prize Competitions, 1937-38:—Banister Fletcher Essay

Competition: Medal and 25 guineas, D. A. Gwilliam: Hon. Mention, R. A. Howells. Owen Jones Studentship:—Finalist: D. B. Owen. Allied Societies' Travelling Scholarship, 1938: T. D. Gedrych.

The valuable help of the technical journals and of the *Western Mail* in giving such excellent publicity to the various activities of the Central Branch was very highly appreciated.

*Election of Officers and Executive Committee.*—The following officers were elected for the year beginning 1 July:—

*Chairman:* Mr. Gordon H. Griffiths, A.M.T.P.I. [*L.*].
*Hon. Treasurer:* Mr. Harry Teather [*F.*].
*Hon. Secretary:* Mr. W. S. Purchon, M.A. [*F.*].

*New Police Building in Cathays Park.*—Considerable interest was taken in the announcement that this building is to be the subject of a competition, the members feeling that this is one of the best ways of assuring that the leading public buildings of the city shall be of the high standard set in Cathays Park.

The **Norfolk and Norwich Association** held their biennial dinner on 18 February, at Norwich, at which Mr. H. G. Strauss, M.P., in proposing the toast of "The R.I.B.A.," gave a most spirited speech in support of the Registration Bill and of proper town and country planning. He said that there was no art on which the happiness of mankind so directly depended as the art of architecture. No art gave more constant or greater and more continuous pleasure. He was one of the backers of the Architects Bill in the House of Commons which had received its second reading, and he did not back the Bill out of affection for architects, but because he was convinced it was essential in the public interest. He believed that it was on the standards of the profession, on its power and the use made of it that the future of England largely depended.

Mr. H. S. Goodhart-Rendel [*P.R.I.B.A.*], who replied, praised East Anglia for its architecture, its painters and its landscape, and appealed for a singleness of purpose and determination in winning the race against the vandalism which might easily overrun the region.

"They want the ease of a slovenly improvidence, the comfort of being able to make a mess without having to clear it up afterwards," he said. "We want to stop the vandals doing whatever they happen to be doing at the moment. Some of us want to replan the whole of our island, preserving historical objects in a new setting; others want to seal up old England in a glass case, occasionally breaking the seal to slip in a new but strictly traditional cottage. Some of us wish to teach England to change quickly and beautifully; others to teach her to change unnoticeably and as little as possible. I think personally that there is only one thing wickeder than to destroy an old building unnecessarily, and that is to make a new building pretend to be an old one. Once you allow people to falsify dates in architectural appearance you poison the wells of history."

Mr. A. L. Roberts [*F.*] (President of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight A.A.) congratulated Norwich on their scheme for municipal buildings and the Corporation on having created a City Architect's Department, to which the Lord Mayor of Norwich replied. Mr. P. E. Curl and Mr. E. H. Swindells [*F.*] (President of the Association) also spoke. Mr. Swindells spoke of the difficulties of large-scale demolition in major streets and the degree of restriction to which architects should submit when new building began especially in major streets.

Mr. J. S. Allen [*A.*] read a paper on the Seventeenth Century and To-day—A Comparison to the **Manchester Society of Architects** on 24 February. He briefly sketched the historic and artistic backgrounds in Italy, France, England, Germany, the Netherlands and Sicily. He stressed the logical basis of baroque planning and the advances made in science in the seventeenth century. To-day there was a similar interest in scientific advance and in construction, and another parallel could be drawn between baroque and present-day modern building in that they were both romantic—they were both striving after new forms—baroque was unsatisfied with the rigid classicism of the sixteenth century; present-day building was moving away from Victorian frowsiness.

# SCHOOL NOTES

The Technical College, Cardiff, has organised two lectures on English architecture by Mr. W. S. Purchon [*F.*] for a large number of senior students in the secondary schools of Cardiff and district. The first of these was given on 11 February, when Mr. Purchon dealt with the Greek, Roman and Anglo-Saxon origins of English architecture. In the second lecture he will deal with English architecture from the Tudor period until the present day.

The lectures have been arranged in accordance with the policy of the Technical College to bring together school children for these lectures rather than to arrange series of them in different schools.

On 16 February the R.W.A. School of Architecture, Bristol, paid a visit to the Welsh School at Cardiff, and after a most successful lunch saw some of the new buildings in Cardiff. The visit ended with a Rugby football match, in which the R.W.A. school won, and a tea.

# Notices

## THE EIGHTH GENERAL MEETING MONDAY, 21 MARCH 1938, AT 8 P.M.

The Eighth General Meeting of the Session 1937-1938 will be held at 8 p.m. on Monday, 21 March 1938, for the following purposes:—

To read the Minutes of the Seventh General Meeting held on Monday, 7 March 1938; formally to admit members attending for the first time since their election.

Mr. Stanley C. Ramsey [*F.*] to read a paper on "Speculative House-building."

Advance copies of the paper can be obtained by any members hoping to take part in the discussion on application to the Secretary R.I.B.A.

## THE HEALTH, SPORT AND FITNESS EXHIBITION, WEDNESDAY, 2 MARCH, TO THURSDAY, 31 MARCH 1938

The Health, Sport and Fitness Exhibition, which was opened on Wednesday, 2 March 1938, by the Rt. Hon. Lord Aberdare, Chairman of the National Fitness Council, will remain open until Thursday, 31 March, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.).

In conjunction with the Exhibition the following lectures have been arranged:—

Wednesday, 9 March, 6.30 p.m. "Health and Welfare," by Dr. J. Graham Forbes, F.R.C.P.

Tuesday, 15 March, 6.30 p.m., "The Rights of Leisure," by Mr. A. J. A. Symons.

Wednesday, 23 March, 6.30 p.m. "Organising Sport," by Mr. W. W. Wakefield, M.P.

## INFORMAL GENERAL MEETING
## WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 1938, AT 6.30 P.M.

In view of the interest aroused by the Health, Sport and Fitness Exhibition, the Junior Members' Committee have decided that the Informal General Meeting on 16 March shall be devoted to a discussion on this subject and the title chosen is "Health, Wealth and Architecture." Arrangements are being made for various speakers to deal with the subject from different points of view in order to provoke discussion, and it is hoped that members will take the opportunity of visiting the exhibition and expressing any views they may have at the informal meeting. There will be no reporters present and members are asked to voice their opinions as freely as they wish.

Tea will be served from 5.45 p.m.

## BUILDING SURVEYING EXAMINATIONS

The R.I.B.A. Statutory Examination qualifying for candidature as District Surveyor in London and the R.I.B.A. Examination qualifying for candidature as Building Surveyor under Local Authorities will be held at the R.I.B.A. on 4, 5 and 6 May 1938.

Applications for admission to either examination must be made not later than 4 April 1938, on the prescribed form to be obtained from the Secretary, R.I.B.A., 66 Portland Place, London, W.1.

## PROFESSIONAL ADVERTISING

The attention of the Practice Standing Committee has been drawn to the fact that the publishers of certain journals are approaching architects for details of their professional activities, which the publishers propose to embody in the editorial columns of their journals. In the case of one particular firm of publishers, several members forwarded to the Institute the proposed article as drafted by the editor and sent to the architects for any additions or amendments the architects desire. In each case the wording of the articles is identical, with the exception of the names and addresses of the firms of architects to whom they were sent.

The Committee desire to warn members generally against this undesirable form of publicity. The acceptance by members of invitations of this nature from firms of publishers is, in the opinion of the Committee, directly contrary to the Code of Professional Practice and tantamount to advertising.

## BRITISH ARCHITECTS' CONFERENCE
## BRISTOL, 22-25 JUNE 1938

The Annual Conference of the Royal Institute of British Architects and of its Allied and Associated Societies will take place at Bristol from 22 to 25 June 1938.

The Wessex Society of Architects have in hand the preparation of a most attractive programme and particulars will be issued in due course.

## ROYAL INCORPORATION OF ARCHITECTS IN SCOTLAND ANNUAL CONVENTION 1938

The Annual Convention of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland will take place at Inverness on Friday and Saturday 3 and 4 June 1938.

## THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS AT GENERAL MEETINGS

It has been decided by the Council to modify the procedure for the introduction and reception of new members at General Meetings. In future new members will be asked to notify the Secretary beforehand of the date of the General Meeting at which they desire to be introduced and a printed postcard will be sent to each newly elected member for this purpose. They will be asked to take their seats on arrival in a special row of seats reserved and marked for them. At the beginning of the meeting, on the invitation being given to present themselves for formal admission, each new member will be led up to the Chairman by one supporter, and the Chairman will formally admit them to membership.

The introduction and reception of new members will take place at any of the forthcoming Ordinary General Meetings of the Royal Institute with the *exception of the meeting on the following date :—*

4 April 1938 (Presentation of the Royal Gold Medal).

## THE USE OF THE TITLES "CHARTERED ARCHITECT" AND "REGISTERED ARCHITECT"

The Council have been asked to give advice with regard to the best way to use the title "Registered Architect" by members of the R.I.B.A. who have been placed on the Register under the provisions of the Architects Registration Act 1931 and who already have the right to use the designation "Chartered Architect."

The Council recommend that members of the R.I.B.A. who have been registered should use the designation "Chartered and Registered Architect."

Members who are qualified for Registration under the provisions of the Architects Registration Act 1931 and have not already done so are reminded of the importance of applying for such Registration without delay. Full particulars will be sent on application to the Secretary R.I.B.A.

## ASSOCIATES AND THE FELLOWSHIP

Associates who are eligible and desirous of transferring to the Fellowship are reminded that if they wish to take advantage of the election to take place on 9 May 1938 they should send the necessary nomination forms to the Secretary R.I.B.A. not later than Saturday, 12 March 1938.

## LICENTIATES AND THE FELLOWSHIP

The attention of Licentiates is called to the provisions of Section IV, Clause 4 (*b*) and (*cii*), of the Supplemental Charter of 1925. Licentiates who are eligible and desirous

of transferring to the Fellowship can obtain full particulars on application to the Secretary R.I.B.A., stating the clause under which they propose to apply for nomination.

### OVERSEAS APPOINTMENTS

When members are contemplating applying for appointments overseas they are recommended to communicate with the Secretary R.I.B.A., who will supply them with any available information respecting conditions of employment, cost of living, climatic conditions, etc.

# Competitions

The Council and Competitions Committee wish to remind members and members of Allied Societies that it is their duty to refuse to take part in competitions unless the conditions are in conformity with the R.I.B.A. Regulations for the Conduct of Architectural Competitions and have been approved by the Institute.

While, in the case of small limited private competitions, modifications of the R.I.B.A. Regulations may be approved, it is the duty of members who are asked to take part in a limited competition to notify the Secretary of the R.I.B.A. immediately, submitting particulars of the competition. This requirement now forms part of the Code of Professional Practice in which it is ruled that a formal invitation to two or more architects to prepare designs in competition for the same project is deemed a limited competition.

### ADWICK-LE-STREET: NEW COUNCIL OFFICES

The Urban District Council of Adwick-le-Street invite architects whose offices are situated in the West Riding of Yorkshire to submit in competition designs for new Council Offices.

Assessor: Mr. John C. Procter, M.C. [*F.*].

Premiums: £50, £40 and £30.

(In the last issue of the JOURNAL the first premium was incorrectly given as £150.)

Last day for submitting designs: 30 August 1938.

Last day for questions: 23 April 1938.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to Mr. C. R. Marshall, Clerk to the Adwick-le-Street Urban District Council, Bank Chambers, High Street, Doncaster. Deposit £1 1s.

### CHESTER: EXTENSIONS TO CHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY

The Council of the Chester Royal Infirmary invite architects of British nationality domiciled in the United Kingdom to submit in competition designs for new hospital buildings and alterations to existing buildings of the Royal Infirmary.

Assessor: Mr. Arthur J. Hope [*F.*]

Premiums: £300, £200 and £100.

Last day for submitting designs: 30 April 1938.

Last day for questions: 12 February 1938.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to Mr. J. Rowse Mitchell, Secretary, The Chester Royal Infirmary, Chester. Deposit £1 1s.

### DUNDEE: DUNCAN OF JORDANSTONE COLLEGE OF ART

The Governors of the Dundee Institute of Art and Technology invite architects of British nationality domiciled in the United Kingdom to submit in competition designs for the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art proposed to be erected on a site in Perth Road, Dundee.

Assessor: Mr. Julian R. Leathart [*F.*].

Premiums: £500, £250 and £150.

Last day for submitting designs: 4 May 1938.

Last day for questions: 19 January 1938.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to the Clerk and Treasurer, Dundee Institute of Art and Technology, Bell Street, Dundee, Angus. Deposit £1 1s

### REDCAR: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE "STRAY"

The Corporation of Redcar, Yorks, invite architects to submit in competition designs for the layout of, and buildings to be erected on, the "Stray" at the front of Zetland Park, Redcar.

Assessor: Professor Patrick Abercrombie [*V.-P.R.I.B.A.*]

Premiums: £250, £100, and £50.

**The last day for submitting designs has been extended to 31 March 1938**

Last day for questions: 31 December 1937.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to the Town Clerk, Municipal Buildings, Redcar, Yorks. Deposit £1 1s.

### ROYAL NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD OF WALES, CARDIFF, 1938: ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITIONS

The Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales are promoting the following two competitions:

(1) For a design for a scheme comprising Physical Culture Centre and Baths. Premiums: £60, £30 and £20.

(2) For a design for a Group of Twelve Dwellings for Aged People. Premiums: £30 and £20.

The Assessor for the competitions is Mr. Percy E. Thomas, O.B.E., Hon. LL.D., Past-President R.I.B.A.

Closing date: 11 June 1938.

Particulars of the competitions may be obtained on application to The General Secretary, Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales, 11 Park Place, Cardiff.

### ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL: RECONSTRUCTION

The President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Governors of St. George's Hospital invite architects practising in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland to submit in competition designs for the reconstruction of St. George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner.

Assessors: Dr. H. V. Lanchester [*F.*].
Mr. T. A. Lodge [*F.*].

Premiums: £500, £300 and £200.

Last day for submitting designs: 30 August 1938.

Last day for questions: 1 March 1938.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to The House Governor, St. George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner, London, S.W.1. Deposit £2 2s.

WOOD GREEN: COUNCIL OFFICES AND PETTY SESSIONAL COURTS

The Wood Green Town Council invite architects of British nationality to submit in competition designs for new Council Offices and Petty Sessional Courts.

Assessors: Mr. C. H. James, A.R.A. [*F.*].
Mr. S. Rowland Pierce [*A.*].

Premiums: £300, £200 and £100.
Last day for submitting designs: 26 April 1938.
Last day for questions: 2 February 1938.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to Mr. H. Chubb, Town Clerk, Town Hall, Wood Green, London, N.22. Deposit £2 2s.

YEOVIL: NEW TOWN HALL AND MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

The Yeovil Borough Council invite architects to submit in competition designs for new town hall, municipal offices, public library and museum.

Assessor: Mr. C. Cowles-Voysey [*F.*].
Premiums: £200, £150, £100 and £50.
Last day for submitting designs: 30 June 1938.
Last day for questions: 15 March 1938.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to Mr. H. C. C. Batten, Town Clerk, Municipal Offices, King George Street, Yeovil. Deposit £1 1s.

COMPETITION FOR A POSTER HOARDING

The Yorkshire and Northern Poster Advertising Association invite architects in practice or in training within the area of the West Yorkshire Society of Architects, York and East Yorkshire Society of Architects, Sheffield, South Yorkshire and District Society of Architects and Surveyors, and the Northern Architectural Association to submit in competition designs for a Poster Hoarding which can be erected in large or small towns and will fit in with its surroundings.

Assessors: Sir Enoch Hill (Chairman).
Mr. S. W. Milburn, M.C. [*F.*].
Mr. J. C. Amory Teather [*F.*].
Mr. C. W. C. Needham [*F.*].
Mr. Norval R. Paxton [*A.*].
Mr. Cyril Sheldon.
Mr. Arthur Taylor.

Premiums: £50, £30 and £20.
Last day for submitting designs: 31 March 1938.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary of any of the R.I.B.A. Allied Societies mentioned above.

TIMBER COTTAGE DESIGNS

The Timber Development Association is promoting a competition open to architects and architectural students of British nationality with the object of showing how accommodation for agricultural workers can be provided at an economic rent by timber-built structures. Competitors must submit designs for

(i) semi-detached cottages and
(ii) a group of three cottages.

Assessors: Sir Guy Dawber, R.A., F.S.A. [*F.*].
Mr. C. H. James, A.R.A. [*F.*].
Mr. Edward Maufe [*F.*].
Mr. John Gloag [*Hon. A.*].

Prizes: £100, £50, £25 and six special mention awards of £10 each.

Last day for receiving designs: 2 May 1938.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to The Secretary, Timber Development Association, 47 King William Street, London, E.C.4.

FORTHCOMING COMPETITIONS

Other competitions which it is proposed to hold, and the conditions for which are not yet available, are as follows:—

BRIERLEY HILL, STAFFS.: NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS
Assessor: Mr. Verner O. Rees [*F.*].

EDMONTON: NEW TOWN HALL BUILDINGS
Assessor: Mr. E. Berry Webber [*A.*].

GLOUCESTER: NEW SWIMMING BATH AND FIRE STATION
Assessor: Mr. C. F. W. Dening, R.W.A. [*F.*].

METROPOLITAN EAR, NOSE AND THROAT HOSPITAL: RECONSTRUCTION
Assessors: Messrs. Charles Holden [*F.*] and Lionel G. Pearson [*F.*].

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE: NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS
Assessor: Mr. Verner O. Rees [*F.*].

PRESTWICH: NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS
Assessor: Mr. T. C. Howitt, D.S.O. [*F.*]

SOUTH SHIELDS: ASSEMBLY HALL AND LIBRARY
Assessor: Mr. Arthur J. Hope [*F.*].

WREXHAM: NEW TOWN HALL
Assessor: Mr. Herbert J. Rowse [*F.*].

# MEMBERS' COLUMN

*Owing to limitation of space, notices in this column are restricted to changes of address, partnerships vacant or wanted, practices for sale or wanted, office accommodation, and appointments vacant. Members are reminded that a column in the Advertisement Section of the Journal is reserved for the advertisements of members seeking appointments in architects' offices. No charge is made for such insertions and the privilege is confined to members who are definitely unemployed.*

PARTNERSHIP OFFERED

PARTNERSHIP is offered in an old-established West Country city practice to young Associate. Premium £600.—Box No. 2328, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr. G. A. BUTLING [*A.*] is moving on 25 March to Hill Farm, Langham, nr. Colchester, Essex.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION WANTED

YOUNG Associate requires small office in London for occasional use, with telephone and share of office facilities available.—Apply Box No. 3338, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

ASSISTANCE OFFERED

Two A.R.I.B.A.s, both young, winners of open competition, with small practice, will undertake part time work, in their own office; tracing sketches, working drawings, perspectives, etc.—Reply to Box No. 4338, c/o Secretary R.I.B.A.

# MINUTES VI

SESSION 1937-1938

At the sixth general meeting of the Session 1937-1938, held on Monday, 21 February 1938, at 8 p.m.

Mr. H. S. Goodhart-Rendel, President, in the chair.

The meeting was attended by about 240 members and guests.

The minutes of the fifth general meeting held on 24 January 1938, having been published in the JOURNAL, were taken as read, confirmed and signed as correct.

The Hon. Secretary announced the decease of :—

John Adams, elected Licentiate 1931, Fellow 1931.

George Frederick Collinson, elected Associate 1892, Fellow 1901.

Wallace Austin Greenen, transferred to Licentiateship 1925, elected Fellow 1930.

William Hawke, elected Associate 1895, Fellow 1906. Mr. Hawke was President-in-Chief of the Institute of South African Architects from 1930 to 1931 and President of the Cape Provincial Institute from 1930 to 1932. He was also a member of the R.I.B.A. Council from 1931 to 1932, and the Allied Societies' Conference from 1930 to 1933.

Charles Henry Heathcote, elected Associate 1871, Fellow 1884. Mr. Heathcote was a member of Council from 1903 to 1904 and a Vice-President from 1922 to 1923, and served on several R.I.B.A. Committees.

Alan Edward Munby, elected Associate 1907, Fellow 1912. President of the York and East Yorkshire Architectural Society from 1922 to 1923, and represented that Society on the Allied Societies' Conference from 1922 to 1925. Mr. Munby was an Associate Member of Council 1909 to 1910, Member of Council 1921 to 1922, and served on many R.I.B.A. Committees and other committees as an R.I.B.A. representative.

Thomas Reid Peacock, elected Licentiate 1911, Fellow 1921.

George Samuel Burt Andrews, transferred to Fellowship 1925, Retired Fellowship 1931.

Max Clarke, elected Associate 1880, Fellow 1904, Retired Fellowship 1936. Mr. Clarke was a Member of Council 1909 to 1913 and 1919 to 1922, and served on many R.I.B.A. Committees and other committees as an R.I.B.A. representative.

Colonel Charles Joseph Higgins, elected Member of the Society of Architects 1887, Retired Member 1919.

John Joseph Miller, elected Associate 1886.

Arthur Prideaux, elected Associate 1923.

John F. Milne, M.B.E., transferred to Licentiateship 1925.

Robert Walker, transferred to Licentiateship 1925.

Charles Frederick John Wilton, transferred to Licentiateship 1926.

And it was resolved that the regrets of the Institute for their loss be entered on the Minutes and that a message of sympathy and condolence be conveyed to their relatives.

The following members attending for the first time since their election were formally admitted by the President :—

*Fellows*

J. Raworth Hill
P. A. W. Roffey
Michael Rosenauer
S. J. B. Stanton.

*Associates*

R. Flavel
Miss J. M. Fortescue
D. Crandon Gill
George Gneditch
Dennis A. Green
A. H. H. Jenkins
Miss Agnes F. Johnston
Miss G. Mary McKenzie
Denzil Nield
Frank C. Otton
John S. Scott
Kenneth A. Stevens
H. Tatham.

*Licentiates*

Thomas Burd
F. L. Felgate
D. St. A. Hamilton
Ian Jeffcott
F. C. Levitt.

Mr. J. H. Forshaw, M.C., M.A., B.Arch.Lvpl. [*F.*], having read a paper on "The Architectural Work of the Miners' Welfare Committee," a discussion ensued, and on the motion of Major-Gen. The Rt. Hon. Sir Frederick Sykes, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., Chairman of the Miners' Welfare Committee, seconded by the Hon. Secretary R.I.B.A., a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Forshaw by acclamation and was briefly responded to.

The proceedings closed at 10.15 p.m.


# Architects' and Surveyors' Approved Society

## ARCHITECTS' ASSISTANTS' INSURANCE FOR THE NATIONAL HEALTH AND PENSIONS ACTS

Architects' Assistants are advised to apply for the prospectus of the Architects' and Surveyors' Approved Society, which may be obtained from the Secretary of the Society, 113 High Holborn, London. W.C.1.

The Society deals with questions of insurability for the National Health and Pensions Acts (for England) under which, in general, those employed at remuneration not exceeding £250 per annum are compulsorily insurable.

In addition to the usual sickness, disablement and maternity benefits, the Society makes grants towards the cost of dental or optical treatment (including provision of spectacles).

No membership fee is payable beyond the normal Health and Pensions Insurance contribution.

The R.I.B.A. has representatives on the Committee of Management, and insured Assistants joining the Society can rely on prompt and sympathetic settlement of claims.

# Architects Benevolent Society

TO ARCHITECTS :

Advise your clients to acquire their houses in the Life Assurance way.

No survey fees. No office legal charges.

Eighty per cent. advances ; 4½ per cent. gross interest.

Mortgage discharged in the event of the borrower's death.

Example of an advance in the case of a borrower, aged 35 next birthday, who has built a house valued at £1,000 and takes an 80 per cent. loan :—Net Quarterly Payment over 25 years, £13 (approx.).

N.B.—In the case of houses in course of erection :—One half of loan advanced when walls are up and roof on.

Write for particulars to : The Secretary, A.B.S., Insurance Dept., 66 Portland Place, London, W.1. Telephone : Welbeck 5721.


---

It is desired to point out that the opinions of writers of articles and letters which appear in the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL must be taken as the individual opinions of their authors and not as representative expressions of the Institute.

Members sending remittances by postal order for subscriptions of Institute publications are warned of the necessity of complying with Post Office Regulations with regard to this method of payment. Postal orders should be made payable to the Secretary R.I.B.A. and crossed.

Members wishing to contribute notices or correspondence must send them addressed to the Editor not later than the Tuesday prior to the date of publication.

---

### R.I.B.A. JOURNAL

DATES OF PUBLICATION.—1938 ; 21 March ; 11, 25 April ; 9, 23 May ; 13, 27 June ; 18 July ; 15 August ; 12 September ; 17 October.